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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

ANNUAL REPORT
24 May 2007-30 April 2008

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS, 2008

SUPPLEMENT No. 19

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACPR	Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission
ADB	Asian Development Bank
APCICT	Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development
APCTT	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
APTA	Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement
ARTNeT	Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CAPSA	Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific
CCOP	Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
FDI	foreign direct investment
GDP	gross domestic product
GNI	gross national income
HIV/AIDS	human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ICST	information, communications and space technology
ICT	information and communications technology
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MRC	Mekong River Commission
ODA	official development assistance
SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
SME	small and medium-sized enterprise
SPECA	United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNAPCAEM	United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

Notes: Values are in United States dollars unless otherwise specified.
The term "billion" signifies a thousand million.

Introduction

1. The annual report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which covers the period from 24 May 2007 to 30 April 2008, was adopted unanimously by the Commission at the fifth plenary meeting of its sixty-fourth session, on 30 April 2008.

Chapter I

ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

2. At its sixty-fourth session, the Commission adopted 10 resolutions and 2 decisions, as listed below. Resolution 64/1 requires action by the Council; the remaining resolutions and the decisions are brought to the attention of the Council.[1]

A. Resolutions

64/1 Restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission

64/2 Regional cooperation in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters in Asia and the Pacific

64/3 Promoting renewables for energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

64/4 Implementation of the Seoul Declaration on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific

64/5 Establishment of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport

64/6 Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region

64/7 Financing for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 in the ESCAP region

64/8 Regional implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific

64/9 Midpoint review of the implementation of the Plan of Action on Population and Poverty adopted at the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference

64/10 Review of the operational details of the feasibility study for the establishment of an Asian and Pacific centre for information, communications and space technology-enabled disaster management

B. Decisions

64/1 Dates, venue and theme topic for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission

64/2 Deferment of consideration of the draft resolution on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Information, Communication and Space Technology-enabled Disaster Management

[1] For the text, see chap. IV.

Chapter II

WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE SIXTY-THIRD SESSION

3. The report of the Executive Secretary on key challenges for inclusive and sustainable economic and social development since the sixty-third session of the Commission is contained in document E/ESCAP/64/35.

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

4. During the period under review, the following meetings of subsidiary bodies were held:

(a) Committee on Poverty Reduction, fourth session;

(b) Committee on Managing Globalization, fourth session (part I);

(c) Committee on Managing Globalization, fourth session (part II);

(d) Committee on Emerging Social Issues, fourth session;

(e) Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries, tenth session.

5. The dates, bureaux and document symbols of the reports of the meetings are given in annex II. The reports of those bodies reflect the discussions held, the agreements reached and the decisions taken by them.

B. Other activities

6. Lists of publications issued, meetings held and advisory services provided in the reporting period 2007/2008 are given in annex IV.

C. Relations with other United Nations programmes

7. The secretariat maintained close and regular liaison with United Nations Headquarters and cooperated with the departments concerned, as well as with the secretariats of the other regional commissions, on projects of common interest.

Chapter III

SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. Attendance and organization of work

8. The sixty-fourth session of the Commission was held at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, from 24 to 30 April 2008. The session comprised two segments. The senior officials segment was held from 24 to 26 April 2008 and the ministerial segment from 28 to 30 April 2008.

9. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members:

Members
Afghanistan
Armenia
Australia
Bangladesh
Bhutan
Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia
China
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Fiji
France
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Japan
Kazakhstan
Kiribati
Kyrgyzstan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Malaysia
Maldives
Marshall Islands
Micronesia (Federated States of)
Mongolia
Myanmar
Nauru
Nepal
Netherlands
Pakistan
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Samoa
Singapore
Solomon Islands
Sri Lanka
Thailand
Tonga
Turkey
Tuvalu
United States of America
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Viet Nam

Associate members
Hong Kong, China
Macao, China
New Caledonia

10. By virtue of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure,[2] representatives of Argentina, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Mexico, Peru and South Africa attended. Representatives of the Holy See also attended.

11. The session was attended by representatives of the following offices of the United Nations Secretariat: Department of Management and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

12. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations Children's Fund, secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, United Nations Office for Project Services and United Nations Population Fund.

13. Representatives of the following specialized agencies were present in a consultative capacity: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Labour Organization, International Telecommunication Union, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Universal Postal Union, World Bank, World Health Organization and World Meteorological Organization.

14. The following intergovernmental organizations attended as observers: Asian and Pacific Coconut Community, Asian Development Bank, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia, Economic Cooperation Organization, Eurasian Economic Community, International Organization for Migration, International Pepper Community, Mekong River Commission, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and Typhoon Committee Secretariat.

15. Observers were present from the following non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status: Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, Baha'i International Community, HelpAge International, International Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse, International Movement ATD Fourth World, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Muslim World League, World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises and World Veterans Federation.

16. Representatives of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Japan International Cooperation Agency also attended the session.

[2] See annex VI.

17. The list of participants is given in document E/ESCAP/64/INF/5/Rev.2.

18. In accordance with rule 13 of its rules of procedure, the Commission elected H.E. Mr. Kim Jong-hoon (Republic of Korea) Chairperson.

19. Following its past practice, the Commission decided to elect the following heads of delegations Vice-Chairpersons:

H.E. Mr. Arman Kirakossian (Armenia)
H.E. Mr. A.B. Mirza Md. Azizul Islam (Bangladesh)
H.E. Mr. Liu Jieyi (China)
H.E. Mr. Kamal Nath (India)
H.E. Ms. Meutia Farida Hatta Swasono (Indonesia)
H.E. Mr. Syed Mohammad Ghasem Hosseini (Islamic Republic of Iran)
H.E. Mr. Nurlan Danenov (Kazakhstan)
H.E. Mr. Bounkeut Sangsomsack (Lao People's Democratic Republic)
Hon. Hamdun Hameed (Maldives)
H.E. Mr. Khurelbaatar Chimed (Mongolia)
H.E. Brig-Gen Than Htay (Myanmar)
Hon. Jagadish Chandra Pokharel (Nepal)
Hon. Sali Subam (Papua New Guinea)
Hon. Roy Kyamko (Philippines)
Hon. Tuuu Leota (Samoa)
Hon. Frederick Fono (Solomon Islands)
H.E. Mr. Noppadon Pattama (Thailand)
H.E. Mr. Dao Viet Trung (Viet Nam)

20. The senior officials segment met in three Committees of the Whole. The following officers were elected:

(a) Committee of the Whole I:

Chairperson:

H.E. Ms. Latha Reddy (India)

Vice-Chairperson:

Mr. Georges Maniuri (Vanuatu)

(b) Committee of the Whole II:

Chairperson:

H.E. Mr. Baatar Choisuren (Mongolia)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Judson Leafasia (Solomon Islands)
Mr. Farrukh Iqbal Khan (Pakistan)

(c) Committee of the Whole III:

Chairperson:

Mr. Swoyambhu Man Amatya (Nepal)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Abdullah Kashimov (Uzbekistan)
Mr. Aholotu Saafi Palu (Tonga)

21. The Commission also constituted a Working Group on Draft Resolutions under the chairmanship of Mr. Umardin Hj. Abdul Mutalib (Malaysia) to consider draft resolutions presented during the session. Mr. Diao Mingsheng (China) was elected Vice-Chairperson of the Working Group.

B. Agenda

22. The Commission adopted the following agenda:

Senior officials segment

1. Opening of the session:
   (a) Opening addresses;
   (b) Election of officers;
   (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Thematic and cross-cutting issues and Asia-Pacific perspectives on selected economic, environmental and social development issues to be addressed at major global forums in 2008:
   (a) Poverty reduction;
   (b) Managing globalization;
   (c) Emerging social issues;
   (d) Countries with special needs: least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.
3. Management issues:
   (a) Implementation of Commission resolutions 58/1, 61/1 and 63/3;
   (b) Programme performance report for the biennium 2006-2007;
   (c) Biennial evaluation report for 2006-2007;
   (d) Draft strategic framework for the biennium 2010-2011;
   (e) Strengthening the United Nations development pillar in the Asia-Pacific region;
   (f) Work of the regional institutions;
   (g) Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the inspection of results-based management practices at ESCAP;
   (h) Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission;
   (i) Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies.

4. Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions.

5. Dates, venue and theme topic for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission.

Ministerial segment

6. Theme topic for the sixty-fourth session: "Energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific".

7. Policy issues for the Asian and Pacific region:

   (a) Key challenges for inclusive and sustainable economic and social development since the sixty-third session of the Commission;

   (b) Economic and social survey of Asia and the Pacific 2008;

   (c) Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region.

8. Other matters.

9. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

C. Account of proceedings

Senior officials segment

23. The senior officials segment of the sixty-fourth session was opened by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, who welcomed all delegates to the sixty-fourth session of the Commission. The Executive Secretary stated that the Commission represented the collective strength and solidarity of its membership and that the secretariat was looking forward to receiving its guidance on a new strategic direction for ESCAP.

24. The Secretary-General had given the Executive Secretary the responsibility to focus on the renewal of ESCAP and to transform the Commission into the leading regional hub for sharing development practices, policy options and consensus-building on economic, social and environmental issues in Asia and the Pacific. That renewal was integral to the Secretary-General's efforts to strengthen the United Nations development pillar.

25. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission of her new corporate vision and of development results that would guide the delivery of services to member States, and of her efforts to address, in a focused and effective manner, important issues concerning which the secretariat had a comparative advantage.

26. The Executive Secretary also informed the Commission of the proposed strengthening of the subregional outreach of ESCAP programmes, which were aimed at better addressing the concerns of developing member States and countries with special needs in each subregion. The Commission was also informed of the Executive Secretary's intention to transform some of the regional institutions of ESCAP into centres of excellence for science and technology transfer and South-South cooperation. The networking of institutions for generating and sharing knowledge of particular relevance to countries with special needs in the region would be promoted.

27. The Commission was informed that most United Nations entities had a subregional presence. Thus, a stronger subregional capacity for the secretariat would align ESCAP with the secretariat structures of other regional commissions, which had an established subregional presence. It would also translate into a more coherent regional architecture for "Delivering as one" in Asia and the Pacific.

28. The Commission was also informed that, with the Executive Secretary's emphasis on building strong partnerships in repositioning ESCAP as the regional hub for development dialogue in Asia and the Pacific, considerable progress had been made in forging strategic partnerships.

29. One of the priorities of the Executive Secretary was the Regional Coordination Mechanism, which comprised some 30 United Nations and intergovernmental entities. In her capacity as the Chairperson of that important body, the Executive Secretary, with the active support of its members, had revitalized the role that it played in the region. The Regional Coordination Mechanism was being transformed into a regional platform for system-wide coherence and partnership, as its members moved ahead together to "Deliver as one" at the regional level.

30. A key milestone for ESCAP in building partnerships was the new phase of its partnership with the Asian Development Bank. Among other partnerships were those forged with the signing of a results-based memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Development Programme and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. In March 2008, the Executive Secretary convened a meeting of executive heads of subregional organizations in Noumea, which had been coorganized with the Pacific Islands Forum, in order to strengthen modalities for cooperation to address inter-subregional disparities.

31. The Executive Secretary urged member States to fully utilize the Commission as their regional platform to articulate the Asia-Pacific voice and to exercise leadership on development issues, including those on the global agenda. Furthermore, the Commission was a forum for the Governments of its members and associate members to hold dialogues in support of their preparations for participating in major global forums.

32. The Executive Secretary further urged all delegations to join hands to make the Commission a key strategic player capable of effectively supporting its efforts in shaping a more balanced and integrated

economic and social order. The Executive Secretary expressed her hope that the sixty-fourth session would mark the start of a new chapter in the history of the Commission.

Ministerial segment

33. The Acting Chairperson of the sixty-third session, H.E. Mr. A.B. Mirza Azizul Islam (Bangladesh), declared open the ministerial segment of the sixty-fourth session of the Commission. Ms. Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Secretary of ESCAP, read out the message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and delivered her welcome statement. H.E. Mr. Samak Sundaravej, Prime Minister of Thailand, delivered the inaugural address.

Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations

34. In his message, the Secretary-General stated that ESCAP was well placed to be the regional hub for promoting sustainable and inclusive development in the region. The Secretary-General looked to ESCAP to become a major forum for follow-up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference by articulating the Asia-Pacific perspective of a framework for a post-2012 agreement on climate change.

35. While soaring energy prices were dominating news headlines, the human suffering caused by energy price hikes was often forgotten. The victims were poor people who had no access to affordable or reliable energy supplies to meet their daily subsistence requirements. Some 1.7 billion people in the region used traditional biomass fuels, and 1 billion people still lacked access to electricity. The region had to examine innovative ways to promote the efficient use of energy, better energy management, cleaner production and consumption, changes in lifestyle and the wider use of renewable energy.

36. The success of the global endeavour to achieve the Millennium Development Goals depended on the effectiveness of the efforts of countries in the Asian and Pacific region, in which ESCAP had a critical role to play. The current year was that of the "bottom billion", and a high-level meeting on the Goals would be convened in September 2008. The Secretary-General looked forward to fresh impetus to that meeting from the Asia-Pacific region with contributions generated by the deliberations at the sixty-fourth session of the Commission.

37. The *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2008*[3] had focused on one of the longer term causes of poverty, the neglect of agriculture, which was the main livelihood of the poor. With food prices soaring, the survey sent out a timely warning to all of the peril of ignoring the importance of the agricultural sector.

38. The Secretary-General recognized that ESCAP was the only regional intergovernmental forum in which all countries and territories in the Asia-Pacific region came together to discuss issues of common concern, to build consensus and to foster stronger partnerships.

Welcoming statement of the Executive Secretary of ESCAP

39. The Executive Secretary extended a warm welcome to all the delegations attending the sixty-fourth session of the Commission and expressed her deep appreciation to the Prime Minister of Thailand for inaugurating the session.

40. The Executive Secretary paid tribute to Thailand's commitment to the aims and ideals of the Charter of the United Nations, as demonstrated through its strong partnership with ESCAP as the regional arm of the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific and Thailand's gracious hosting of the ESCAP secretariat since January 1949.

41. As she embarked on her journey at the helm of the ESCAP secretariat, the Executive Secretary recalled the vision and hopes of the founding fathers, whose determination had enabled the developing countries of the region to have their own regional platform. The Executive Secretary had been guided by the founders in her endeavours to work towards fulfilling the true promise of their dream of a Commission that would link the countries of the region in advancing together.

42. The Executive Secretary drew the attention of the Commission to the new impetus to strengthen the regional dimension that bridged the global and national processes. That meant strengthening ESCAP as the regional platform for sharing development practices, engaging in policy dialogue and building consensus on economic, social and environmental issues.

43. The Executive Secretary observed that, as Asia and the Pacific emerged as a major actor on the global stage and the world applauded the region for its economic miracles, the region faced an imminent crisis of rapidly rising inequalities. Income disparities had led, inter alia, to serious social and environmental inequities. An increasing proportion of the poor in the region lived in areas where the environment was under stress. In many countries, the poorest people might use less energy, but actually pay proportionately more than the rich for energy services. Those high levels of inequality were diminishing prospects for growth and eroding social cohesion in the region. The sixty-fourth session of the Commission presented an opportunity for countries of the region to focus on economic and social imbalances between and within them and to move towards collaboration and solidarity to shape a more balanced and integrated economic and social order.

44. The Executive Secretary emphasized that the Commission was as strong and effective as its membership wanted it to be and urged member States to create momentum for renewed regional cooperation to address the disparities, which fostered instability and insecurity in the region and marred its economic vibrancy. In that regard, the Executive Secretary looked

[3] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.II.F.7.

forward to the support and cooperation of member States in writing a new chapter in the history of the Commission.

Inaugural address by the Prime Minister of Thailand

45. The Prime Minister of Thailand extended a warm welcome to all delegates to the sixty-fourth session of the Commission.

46. The Prime Minister felt that the theme of the session, "Energy security and sustainable development", was appropriate and timely, observing that rising oil prices had affected consumers worldwide and had contributed to energy scarcity, climate change, environmental degradation, loss of biodiversity, economic slowdown and skyrocketing food prices. Those issues adversely affected economic and social development and the well-being of the people of all countries, including Thailand. The Prime Minister informed the Commission that addressing the issue of food prices, along with energy security, was on the national agenda of Thailand.

47. The Prime Minister informed the Commission that his Government was taking steps to revitalize the Thai economy, putting people at the centre of its agenda. With an open and free-market economy, Thailand would continue to build on its strong fundamentals and would actively engage with regional and global economies. At the same time, in order to make the country's progress sustainable, Thailand needed to address economic and social inequalities and lack of opportunity. The goal of the Government was the empowerment of the people and its policies worked to generate income and to create opportunities for the agricultural and self-employed sectors.

48. The Prime Minister underscored the need to pay more attention to environmental sustainability and the wise use of natural resources, while maintaining sound economic growth. It was necessary to safeguard the region's great wealth of biodiversity, which was under threat, and to include that issue in national development plans.

49. At the same time, the sustainable development of the region also required attention to its energy resources. It was necessary to give urgent consideration to energy management reform, the promotion of cooperation in the energy sector, efficient energy usage, clean energy promotion and the development of alternative and renewable energy. Given intercountry disparities in energy capacities and expertise, the Prime Minister emphasized the importance of enhanced energy cooperation towards achieving the goal of energy security for all. Possible areas of cooperation included the development of infrastructure for hydroelectric production and intraregional trading in natural gas. The Prime Minister also mentioned nuclear energy as another possible source of energy.

50. The Prime Minister informed the Commission that Thailand fully supported South-South partnerships and those between developed and developing countries involving technology transfer, including cooperation with relevant international organizations and through various regional frameworks. ESCAP could play a valuable role as a depository of best practices and know-how for the greater benefit of the peoples of Asia and the Pacific.

51. The Prime Minister also informed the Commission that human resources development was the main focus of the development cooperation extended by Thailand to other developing countries in the region and beyond. Thailand was a regional base for human resources development through the hosting of institutions such as the Mekong Institute and the International Institute for Trade and Development.

52. In explaining the importance that Thailand accorded to improving transportation and communication among people in the region, the Prime Minister pointed to Thailand's considerable investment in road construction in neighbouring countries. During the recent Greater Mekong Subregion summit, Thailand had proposed a "tourism route initiative" to complement existing economic corridors and other related cooperation frameworks. The proposed route would connect major cities and tourist destinations across the subregion, in particular world heritage sites. It would promote economic activities, create local opportunities and bridge the subregion with China, India and beyond. The Prime Minister's recent discussions with other ASEAN Heads of Government revealed a common will to strengthen regional road and rail connectivity, for which the ESCAP initiatives on the Trans-Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks would be helpful.

53. The Prime Minister stated that he had been pleased to learn that the Commission would consider the revitalization of its work at its sixty-fourth session, in particular a structural review.

54. In expressing his appreciation of the role of ESCAP in supporting regional collaboration, the Prime Minister stated that Thailand would continue to be a dynamic partner of ESCAP and its member countries.

55. The Prime Minister also expressed his appreciation for the strong determination of the Executive Secretary to make the Commission more relevant to the region's rapidly changing environment and more responsive to the needs of its members. The Prime Minister was confident that a meaningful and effective outcome would be achieved.

56. The Prime Minister extended his best wishes for a successful Commission session and declared open the sixty-fourth session of the Commission.

Agenda item 2
Thematic and cross-cutting issues and Asia-Pacific perspectives on selected economic, environmental and social development issues to be addressed at major global forums in 2008

Sub-item (a)
Poverty reduction

57. The Commission had before it the report of the Committee on Poverty Reduction on its fourth session (E/ESCAP/64/1), the summary of progress in the implementation of resolutions relating to the theme of poverty reduction (E/ESCAP/64/2), the document on financing for development 2008 (E/ESCAP/64/3) and the document on aid effectiveness (E/ESCAP/64/4).

Report of the Committee on Poverty Reduction on its fourth session

58. The Commission noted the socio-economic progress of countries in the region, including progress in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and was informed of national policies, strategies and programmes that had helped in promoting inclusive growth and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

59. The Commission noted with concern that higher food and oil prices were adversely affecting poverty reduction in some countries and that increased regional cooperation would help address that issue. The Commission emphasized that the revitalization of agriculture was key to efforts to address food shortages and contain food inflation.

60. Some delegations noted that climate change was adversely affecting poverty reduction efforts in their countries. One delegation noted that extreme weather and loss of livelihoods in climate change-sensitive rural ecosystems were driving the rural poor into slums and squatter settlements in urban areas.

61. The Commission noted that microfinance and microcredit were effective and powerful tools for poverty reduction. One delegation expressed its support for the promotion of an enabling policy environment for microfinance as a poverty reduction tool. It suggested that the capacity of microfinance institutions be expanded by strengthening collaboration among microfinance institutions and financial training centres. It also suggested that training programmes should aim to establish more effective delivery of financial services for the poor, particularly in rural areas.

62. One delegation observed that it was crucial to broaden community and grass-roots participation in the development process. Another delegation observed that microcredit facilities, such as village funds to support development schemes, small and medium-sized enterprise banks and other financial institutions, had helped to promote small businesses, which created more jobs and decent incomes for the poor.

63. Referring to the Executive Secretary's recent visit to the Pacific, one delegation informed the Commission that leaders of Pacific island developing countries had identified key areas of collaboration, including: action on climate change; food, water and energy security; urban management and youth employment; communications and connectivity; aid effectiveness; disaster mitigation and management; and data collection and statistical analysis. The delegation conveyed the desire of the Pacific island leaders to build greater linkages with Asia and suggested that ESCAP had a vital facilitative role to play. The same delegation noted that the Pacific leaders, in their meeting with the Executive Secretary, had requested that she strengthen the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre with adequate staff and resources.

64. Some delegations welcomed the re-establishment of the Committee on Statistics and expressed support for the role of the secretariat in building the statistical capacity of member States and facilitating regional cooperation in the field.

65. Some delegations emphasized the need for the secretariat to strengthen the statistical capacity of member States to monitor their progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. One delegation from the Pacific subregion expressed its appreciation to the secretariat on its plan to conduct an analytical study on the status of progress that was being made by Pacific member States in achieving the Goals in order to assist them with context-specific policy options.

66. Some delegations expressed their appreciation for the work of the secretariat on disability statistics. One delegation supported the adoption of a standard disability survey questionnaire at the regional level, provided that the data collected were internationally comparable. At the same time, the delegation stated that countries should have the flexibility to add questions to the questionnaire, based on national priorities. Another delegation stressed the need to further develop concepts, definitions and classifications of disability status, in consultation with stakeholders from various disciplines.

67. The Commission noted the views of one delegation that the issue of the new and revised indicators to assess progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals required further consideration, taking into account the concerns of member States expressed during the fourth session of the Committee on Poverty Reduction.

Summary of progress in the implementation of resolutions relating to the theme of poverty reduction

68. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/64/2 on the summary of progress in the implementation of resolutions relating to the theme of poverty reduction. It noted the progress made in the implementation of its resolutions relating to the theme of poverty reduction, namely resolution 63/4 on

achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region, resolution 62/9 on regional follow-up to the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and resolution 62/11 on implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.

Financing for development 2008

69. One delegation noted that countries of the Asian and Pacific region had made substantial progress in the area of financing for development since the adoption of the Monterrey Consensus[4] in 2002. Another delegation supported the establishment of enabling environments to mobilize domestic financial resources, attract foreign investment and facilitate trade as cornerstones of development and economic growth.

70. The Commission observed that savings had increased while the region had attracted more foreign resources for development, particularly foreign direct investment (FDI). International trade had increased and external debt had fallen substantially. Steps had also been taken to address systemic issues at both the national and regional levels. However, challenges remained with regard to achieving progress in all of the above-mentioned areas that were more evenly spread across the developing countries of the region.

71. Another delegation indicated that, given the situation in its economy and the needs of its people, government services could not be sustained due to lower tax revenues, which had become a key impediment to development. The delegation noted that the erosion of its trade preferences and revenue-generating capacity had had an adverse impact on the economic and social health of its country.

72. The Commission observed the transition made by some developing countries from being recipients of development assistance to being donor countries themselves. In that regard, one delegation noted that its country had become a net donor and bore, together with 22 other countries, the special status of being a South-South "pivotal country". The delegation noted that those countries were in a position to play a lead role in South-South cooperation based on their capacity and experience. In that regard, the delegation noted that the technical cooperation activities its country had undertaken in developing or less developed countries could be considered within the framework of South-South cooperation.

73. One delegation emphasized the importance of debt swaps for developing countries and debt relief for lower middle-income countries, in addition to capacity-building in financial asset management and the importance of debt sustainability. The delegation recognized the existing debt-related problems faced by lower middle-income countries in Asia and the Pacific and stated that it believed that, in order to solve those problems, regional financial cooperation was needed in areas such as debt swaps and debt relief and capacity-building, with a view to improving access to international financial markets.

74. One delegation informed the Commission that it would advance its efforts to address development challenges, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The delegation noted that, based on the concept of human security, its country would actively contribute to the achievement of those Goals through the effective use of bilateral and multilateral official development assistance (ODA). It informed the Commission that its country would work steadily to fulfil its various international pledges, including increasing its volume of total ODA by $10 billion. The delegation emphasized that, in doing so, its country would like to demonstrate good leadership in response to issues of global relevance.

75. One delegation noted that its country, as a middle-income developing country, had played an increasingly active role in contributing to the global partnership for development. The delegation informed the Commission that it had provided development assistance, both bilaterally and multilaterally, in order to promote progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in other developing countries and least developed countries. It also noted that, in the light of the aid-for-trade initiative, its country had imported certain products from least developed countries on a quota-free and tariff-free basis.

76. One delegation cautioned that any short-term gain from taxes or other controls on capital flows would likely lead to greater long-term costs by hindering foreign investment, preventing the deepening of financial markets and delaying needed fundamental reforms to economic policies and institutions. As a matter of policy, it believed that individual countries had a sovereign right to decide their own tax policies. The delegation stated that it did not support regional or global taxation schemes because of the inherent shortcomings in accountability and transparency.

77. One delegation expressed the hope that the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, to be held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008, would decide on the format and mechanism for cooperation among member States, and provide direction for further work in the sphere of financing for development. In that context, the delegation felt that the specific recommendations contained in the action plan for financing for development required further study and that it was not advisable at the present time to take a decision on the role of the secretariat in the financing for development process or mechanisms nor to institutionally strengthen its respective new functions.

[4] Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development (*Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex).

78. One delegation noted with appreciation the initiative to establish a regional action plan to improve the effectiveness of financing for development in the region. It indicated that a comprehensive discussion on the proposed action plan on financing for development and its implementation in the Asian and Pacific countries was urgently needed and expressed the hope that the secretariat would facilitate discussion on the subject.

79. The Commission was informed that ODA could play a catalytic role in development, but that it was rarely the most important source of development finance. In that regard, one delegation noted that, in the case of that country, non-trade private financial flows from it, excluding ODA, totalled some $133 billion in 2006, over 1 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP), and its net imports from developing countries were $557 billion in 2006, dwarfing the size of other financial flows. The delegation indicated that it had pledged at the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico, to increase by 2006 its foreign assistance by 50 per cent over that of 2000, but that it had met that pledge three years early. The delegation also noted that, while many donor countries had endorsed a target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) for ODA, it had not endorsed it because the target bore no relationship to demonstrated need or to the ability of recipients to use the aid effectively.

Aid effectiveness

80. The Commission noted that effective and sustainable assistance should be demand-driven and accompanied by efforts to build absorptive capacity to ensure that aid was used to maximum effectiveness. One delegation noted the importance of creating a sense of ownership among the recipients of such aid, making sure that countries set their own national development strategies to ensure their sustainability.

81. One delegation observed that aid effectiveness was not uniform but variable, depending on the context of countries and specific sectors, and that, while the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness[5] marked an international milestone in the field, its content and implementation could be improved. Regarding aid quality and development results, the delegation observed that the evaluations made by developing countries that are partners in the process should be respected from the point of view of ownership and that, if partner countries lacked capacity for evaluation, donors should help them build such capacity so that they could evaluate development results.

82. One delegation observed that the Paris Declaration was the cornerstone document for measuring the effectiveness of aid. It noted that the indicators and targets of the declaration had been established as part of an evidence-based approach to monitoring progress on implementation of the declaration, mainly at the country level, and complemented at the international level. The delegation expressed the view that an absolute increase in aid might not be the best way to achieve development. The same delegation stated that the only way both to achieve and sustain development was through private sector-led economic growth.

83. One delegation noted that it was most difficult to further develop goals in fragile States, where weak institutional capacities, poor governance, political instability and internal conflict made it difficult to achieve results. The delegation expressed the view that human security and stability must precede efforts to achieve development and that the continuation of "business as usual" in fragile States would neither achieve sustainable gains in development nor resolve basis issues relating to instability in such countries. In place of making aid one of the building blocks of a new global partnership for poverty eradication, the delegation pointed out that, in paragraph 20 of the Millennium Declaration,[6] leaders had negotiated to "develop strong partnerships with the private sector and with civil society organizations in pursuit of development and poverty eradication".

84. In view of the significant impact that foreign aid had had on the economic and social progress of recipient countries, the Commission noted the view expressed by one delegation that better aid would have meant allocating resources in support of its policy priorities to promote justice, stimulate economic growth and improve the social welfare of its citizens. The delegation informed the Commission that, in signing the 2005 Paris Declaration, more than 100 countries and donor organizations had endorsed an ambitious plan to reform the system of aid delivery based on five basic principles: (a) ownership by recipient countries; (b) donor alignment with national development plans; (c) harmonization of donor initiatives; (d) results-based management; and (e) mutual accountability. The delegation also noted that, under the terms of the Paris Declaration, donors and partners had committed themselves to monitoring their progress in improving aid effectiveness with regard to 56 specific actions and 12 indicators and a number of targets that were set for achievement by 2010.

85. The Commission noted the importance of strengthening existing partnerships as well as exploring new ones, in particular under South-South and trilateral North-South-South cooperation frameworks. In line with system-wide coherence, one delegation was of the view that the concept of "Delivering as one" was fully consistent with the principles set out in the Paris Declaration. In that regard, the delegation highlighted the importance of harmonization and alignment among the relevant United Nations bodies in order to ensure that their efforts would be delivered in a concerted manner "as one" at the country and regional levels.

[5] Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness: Ownership, Harmonization, Alignment, Results and Mutual Accountability, adopted at the High-level Forum on the question of "Joint Progress towards Enhanced Aid Effectiveness: Harmonization, Alignment, Results", held in Paris from 28 February to 2 March 2005 (see http://www1.worldbank.org/harmonization/PARIS/FINALPARISDECLARATION.pdf).

[6] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

Sub-item (b)
Managing globalization

86. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/64/5, E/ESCAP/64/6, E/ESCAP/64/7, E/ESCAP/64/8 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/64/9, E/ESCAP/64/10, E/ESCAP/64/11 and E/ESCAP/64/12, relating to the four subprogrammes of ESCAP in the area of managing globalization, namely: Trade and investment; Transport and tourism; Environment and sustainable development; and Information, communication and space technology.

87. The Commission expressed its general support for the reports of the Committee on Managing Globalization on its fourth session, part I (E/ESCAP/64/5), on trade and investment and transport and tourism, and part II (E/ESCAP/64/6), on environment and sustainable development and information, communication and space technologies.

Trade and investment

88. The Commission recognized the importance of sustained trade and investment liberalization for economic and social development. It supported the primacy of the multilateral trading system and looked forward to a successful conclusion of the Doha round of multilateral trade negotiations in 2008, which would benefit developing countries and countries with economies in transition. In that regard, several delegations requested that the secretariat continue its important and useful technical assistance aimed at building trade negotiation capacities to facilitate the effective integration of developing countries and countries with economies in transition into the multilateral trading system, including accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) for those countries that were not yet members.

89. The Commission noted the progress achieved and the various initiatives undertaken by developing countries and countries with economies in transition in reducing tariffs and liberalizing and facilitating trade, including through participation in the ongoing Doha round negotiations and the conclusion of regional and bilateral trade agreements. It also took note of the assistance that some of those countries had provided for neighbouring countries in an effort to promote trade among developing countries.

90. Several delegations noted that, although the conclusion of regional and bilateral trade agreements was a second best option to promoting trade interests, such agreements could contribute to trade liberalization and serve as building blocks in the multilateral trading system. One delegation expressed the view that such agreements offered countries the opportunity to use different policy options for trade liberalization without losing policy space, while another delegation expressed support for the secretariat's initiatives towards the harmonization and integration of such agreements.

91. Two delegations observed that the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), for which ESCAP served as the secretariat, was an important mechanism for promoting regional economic cooperation among economies of the region. They welcomed the launch of the fourth round of APTA negotiations, which would extend beyond tariff measures into areas including non-tariff measures, services, investment and trade facilitation. In that regard, one delegation underlined the future potential of APTA while another delegation emphasized the importance of progress in the areas of services and investment under the fourth round.

92. The Commission noted the importance of trade facilitation, including simplification of trade and customs procedures and documents; e-commerce, including single-window systems; and the elimination of non-tariff barriers to trade. Two delegations commended the secretariat for its trade facilitation work, while noting that it could be further strengthened. One delegation requested that the secretariat undertake human resources development and institutional capacity-building activities in the area of e-commerce, including on issues related to the harmonization of legal and regulatory frameworks, e-payment and e-finance, intellectual property rights, cyber-crime and information security issues and networking among policymakers, researchers, buyers and suppliers.

93. In that context, several delegations noted the secretariat's initiative to establish an Asia-Pacific forum for efficient trade and its potential as a mechanism to address obstacles to efficient intraregional trade.[7] In the same context, two delegations requested further elaboration and discussion on the proposed forum. One delegation suggested that the proposed forum could serve to identify key infrastructural and institutional constraints impeding regional trade and steps to be taken to eliminate inefficiencies at land border crossings. It could also address the harmonization of customs documents across countries. Another suggestion was for the forum to undertake studies on pairs of countries in order to identify specific impediments that hampered trade between them. That, in turn, would help in identifying obstacles to trade that were common in the region, including measures to mitigate or eliminate them. One delegation observed that the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Advisory Council could develop a fruitful outreach channel for the establishment of the proposed forum.

94. One delegation noted the difficulties some developing countries had encountered in complying with the requirements on sanitary and phytosanitary measures and technical barriers to trade, including high compliance costs and the short time alloted to bringing about such compliance. In that regard, the delegation called for a higher level of participation by developing countries in standard-setting bodies and suggested that ESCAP could support the participation of developing countries in the work of those bodies through appropriate cooperation and assistance.

[7] See E/ESCAP/64/7, para. 71, and E/ESCAP/64/10, paras. 39 and 47(f) and (g).

95. The delegation of Nepal, in expressing appreciation for the work of the secretariat in the areas of trade, investment and enterprise development, requested the secretariat to provide more capacity-building activities in the area of trade and investment promotion aimed at poverty reduction and economic development, with a special focus on landlocked developing countries, least developed countries and Pacific island developing countries. Another delegation suggested that the secretariat strengthen its work, in an integrated manner, in the areas of trade, investment and finance linkages, including trade facilitation and logistics.

96. One delegation was of the view that least developed countries had been unable to benefit fully from multilateral trade liberalization opportunities owing to limited productive capacity and stringent rules of origin. In that regard, the delegation underlined the need for the adoption of a more comprehensive approach to aid for trade so that such aid could be properly utilized, in collaboration with various international organizations, in developing the capacity of least developed countries to comply with sanitary and phytosanitary measures and technical barriers to trade, trade facilitation, e-commerce, trade-related intellectual property rights as well as building their capacity in the fields of infrastructure and industry.

97. The same delegation urged developed countries to accord duty- and quota-free market access to all exports from all least developed countries. The delegation requested equally liberal market access policies for the service exports of least developed countries, including less-skilled and non-professional service providers under mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services on a temporary and contractual basis.

98. Two delegations underlined the special needs of landlocked developing countries. In that regard, one delegation emphasized the need for those countries to participate more effectively in global trade and called on donors and multilateral aid organizations to enhance their technical and financial assistance to those countries. The delegation indicated that the special needs of landlocked developing countries should also receive due recognition in trade negotiations.

99. The Commission noted the policies of various countries in support of an improvement in the investment climate. In that context, one delegation underlined the need for measures to protect against environmental damage that could emanate from FDI, particularly in the context of those countries with limited domestic capacity to regulate investments.

Transport and tourism

100. The Commission noted the importance of transport for economic, social and trade development. It was also noted that transport should remain a priority area into the future for the programme of work of the secretariat.

101. The Commission expressed support for the work of the secretariat in the development of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway. In that connection, the Commission acknowledged that the Asian Highway and the Trans-Asian Railway networks were building blocks for the development of an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics network for the region, as envisioned in the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/63/13, chap. V).

102. It was noted that, in respect of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network,[8] India had completed its internal approvals to provide a highway link between India and Bhutan through the extension of AH48 from Thimphu connecting with AH2 at Phulbari, India. The amendments relating to that route would be taken up at the next meeting of the Working Group on the Asian Highway. It was also noted that Indonesia was in the process of ratifying the agreement; the process was expected to be completed by the end of the second quarter of 2008.

103. The Commission recognized the role of the Trans-Asian Railway network in connecting people and expanding trade. One delegation called on member States that had not yet ratified the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network[9] to do so, with a view to working towards its entry into force in the course of 2008.

104. The Commission was informed that the organization of demonstration runs of container block-trains along the routes of the Trans-Asian Railway network was an effective approach for promoting the development of international transport corridors.

105. The Commission noted the importance of road and transport linkages for creating opportunities for economic activities such as trade, investment and tourism, which would benefit people along the routes. One delegation informed the Commission of the "tourism route initiative" to promote economic activities along the world heritage sites within the Greater Mekong Subregion.

106. One delegation informed the Commission of the significant achievements of the Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing within the framework of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), which had contributed towards the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action.[10]

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[8] See Commission resolution 60/4.

[9] Commission resolution 62/4, annex.

[10] Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries (*Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation*, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003 (A/CONF.202/3), annex I).

107. One delegation emphasized that it was important for the Commission at its current session to adopt a resolution to set up a forum of Asian ministers of transport, which had been discussed at the fourth session of the Committee on Managing Globalization, part I,[11] in view of the fact that such a forum could make an important contribution to the development of transport in the region.

108. One delegation emphasized that the financing of transport infrastructure was a major issue, underlined the importance of public-private partnerships for infrastructure development and reported on measures that had been taken in that regard. The delegation of Indonesia announced its readiness to host a ministerial conference on public-private partnerships for infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific in 2009.

109. The Commission noted the importance of road safety and expressed its support for the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Improving Road Safety in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/63/13, chap. IV), which had been adopted at the Ministerial Conference on Transport in November 2006, and had been endorsed by the Commission in its resolution 63/9 on the implementation of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011). The Commission also noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 62/244 on improving global road safety, had welcomed the offer of the Government of the Russian Federation to host the first global high-level (ministerial) conference on road safety in Moscow in 2009, in order to exchange experiences and foster cooperation on road safety issues.

110. Some delegations noted the importance of developing an integrated logistics and transport system. One delegation mentioned that the purpose of developing such a system was to provide just-in-time and reliable delivery of cargo. Other delegations noted the need for further simplification and harmonization of cross-border procedures.

111. The Commission adopted resolution 64/4 on the implementation of the Seoul Declaration on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific.

112. The Commission also adopted resolution 64/5 on the establishment of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport.

Environment and sustainable development

113. The Commission acknowledged the importance of environment and sustainable development as a key cross-cutting issue in dealing with globalization in Asia and the Pacific and the sustainability of further socio-economic development of the region.

114. The Commission highlighted the importance of the consensus reached at the United Nations Climate Change Conference, held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2007,[12] and noted the follow-up activities reported by several delegations. One delegation stated that anticipation of the outcomes of the climate negotiations was premature. It recognized the importance of preparedness for enhancing cooperation between countries in achieving their national goals and priorities but expressed the opinion that scarce resources should not be diverted to such efforts before the negotiations were concluded. The delegation emphasized that regional discussion should not prejudge the ongoing negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

115. Several delegations welcomed the proposed initiatives of the secretariat to assist members and associate members in following up the Bali road map.[13] They encouraged the secretariat to play a key role in organizing regional forums for dialogue, extending capacity-building support, facilitating information sharing and promoting the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and South-South cooperation. One delegation stressed the importance of the proactive participation of developing countries in mitigation actions.

116. The representative of Japan informed the Commission of that country's recent efforts to address climate change, with the launch of the "Cool Earth 50" initiative, including a new financial mechanism based on the "Cool Earth" promotion programme that it had established with a budget of $10 billion to assist developing countries in their efforts to reduce emissions. The representative also invited members and associate members to participate actively in the Japan-ESCAP joint programme entitled Asia-Pacific Gateway to Climate and Development.

117. Two delegations expressed their satisfaction with the work accomplished under the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation to enhance regional cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable development and proposed the establishment of an institutional mechanism to support the activities under that subregional programme based on consensus among participating member States.

118. The Commission noted the importance of regional cooperation in energy security for fostering sustainable development in the region. One delegation pointed out with satisfaction the mechanisms and activities implemented on subregional energy cooperation in North-East Asia.

119. With respect to the ESCAP programme of work, one delegation urged that the secretariat give equal attention to the fields of environment, energy and water resources within the framework of the relevant subprogramme. The representative of Afghanistan

[11] See E/ESCAP/64/5, paras. 10 and 46-52.

[12] FCCC/CP/2007/6/Add.1, decision 1/CP.13.

[13] See E/ESCAP/64/12, sects. V and VI.

requested that the Commission give more attention to the needs of least developed countries, countries with economies in transition and landlocked developing countries in order to help them cope with and manage the impact of changing oil and food prices.

120. In the context of disaster management, one delegation noted the importance of the Multi-Donor Voluntary Trust Fund on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia[14] and its satisfaction with the progress made in providing comprehensive coverage through a multinodal network for sharing information and communications in the region. It expressed its hope for continued financial and technical support to the Fund, and more project funding from it. One delegation expressed appreciation to the Typhoon Committee for its dedication and efforts. In addition, the representative of Thailand informed the Commission that it would host the forty-first session of the Typhoon Committee, to be held in Bangkok in November 2008.

121. The Commission adopted resolution 64/2 on regional cooperation in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters in Asia and the Pacific.

122. The Commission also adopted resolution 64/3 on promoting renewables for energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

123. The delegation of Japan, while joining the consensus on the adoption of resolution 64/3, expressed its view that technology transfer should be promoted mainly on a business basis by the private sector and by taking appropriate measures with regard to intellectual property rights and tariffs.

Information, communications and space technology

124. The Commission recognized the important role played by information, communications and space technology (ICST) in economic and social development and in bridging technological gaps among countries of Asia and the Pacific.

125. One delegation noted that, while globalization offered opportunities for economic development, challenges remained, in particular for women, with regard to such opportunities and rapid changes in technology. In that regard, training opportunities in information and communications technology (ICT) and emerging technologies should be provided for women in both urban and rural areas to equip them with the necessary know-how.

126. Some delegations emphasized the importance of using ICST for disaster management and the need for international cooperation and participation among space-faring countries. One delegation expressed the hope that countries would cooperate on the implementation of the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development. The same delegation informed the Commission of the regional cooperation initiative entitled "Sentinel Asia", which was aimed at providing space information to support disaster management in the region, and offered to provide relevant data for that initiative. The Commission was also informed that 20 countries had joined the initiative.

127. Some delegations noted that, while ICT was vital for trade efficiency and facilitation, legal infrastructure or cyberlaw was essential for countries to develop an information economy and e-commerce. One delegation noted that many developing countries and countries with economies in transition lacked mechanisms for online dispute resolution. The delegation of Nepal requested assistance from the secretariat in human resources development and institutional capacity-building on harmonization of legislative frameworks as well as in setting up networks for policymakers, researchers, buyers and suppliers.

128. One delegation advocated the use of ICST for building the capacity of member countries to address climate change through ICT tools, including e-learning and e-medicine. One delegation identified ICT as the top priority area in its cooperation activities with ESCAP, and expressed its continued support for the development of ICT. The Commission noted with appreciation the support that the Republic of Korea had provided ESCAP in the area of ICST.

129. The Commission adopted resolution 64/10 on the review of the operational details of the feasibility study for the establishment of an Asian and Pacific centre for information, communications and space technology-enabled disaster management.

130. The Commission also adopted decision 64/2 on the deferment of consideration of the draft resolution on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Information, Communication and Space Technology-enabled Disaster Management.

Sub-item (c)
Emerging social issues

131. The Commission had before it the report of the Committee on Emerging Social Issues on its fourth session (E/ESCAP/64/13), the report on the summary of progress in the implementation of resolutions relating to emerging social issues (E/ESCAP/64/14), the report on the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS: an assessment of the progress made by ESCAP members: challenges and opportunities (E/ESCAP/64/15) and the report on the follow-up to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and the Global Forum on International Migration and Development (E/ESCAP/64/16).

132. Several delegations expressed support for the conclusions and recommendations contained in the documents that pertained to emerging social issues and noted the progress that had been made in the implementation of related resolutions.

[14] See Commission resolution 62/7.

133. The Commission noted the importance of addressing the threat posed by HIV/AIDS in the light of its impact on social and economic development in the region. Some delegations expressed concern about the high proportion of females with HIV/AIDS and called for greater action to empower women and protect their rights.

134. One delegation noted that commitment from leaders was essential in dealing with HIV/AIDS and added that the involvement of all sectors of society, in particular non-governmental organizations, in treatment and prevention programmes was indispensable. Some delegations noted the importance of regional cooperation in the fight against HIV/AIDS and stated that they were willing to share their practices and experiences with other countries in the Asian and Pacific region.

135. The Commission noted with appreciation the technical and financial assistance provided by the Government of Japan in the fight against HIV/AIDS, with $800 million having been contributed through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria since 2002.

136. One delegation, while appreciating the efforts of the secretariat in its work regarding the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,[15] cautioned that it should not duplicate the work of other organizations in dealing with legal issues and the financing of research and development and investments in drugs to fight HIV/AIDS. However, the delegation stated that ESCAP had a niche in providing a regional forum for the exchange of instruments, mechanisms, experiences and practices regarding health in general and HIV/AIDS in particular.

137. One delegation drew attention to the importance of comprehensive strategies to combat the persistent threat of avian influenza and the significance of coordination in that regard among national and international stakeholders and to the need for providing support in financial terms and in developing technical capacity.

138. One delegation stated that it was committed to increasing investments in health care and to improving the access of the poor to health-care facilities and that it welcomed the role of ESCAP in promoting regional cooperation regarding investments in health care and building capacity to enhance the effectiveness of health-care delivery.

139. The Commission recognized the multifaceted linkages between international migration and development, in particular the impact of migration on poverty reduction. In that context, it was noted that there was a need for effective management of international migration, taking into account the opportunities and challenges that international migration presented for maximizing its benefits while reducing its negative effects in both the countries of origin and of destination. Several delegations noted the importance of legal and orderly migration and the protection of the human rights of international migrants.

140. One delegation urged the secretariat to continue to closely collaborate and coordinate its work in the area of migration management and capacity-building with United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations, in particular the International Organization for Migration (IOM). It further requested that the secretariat coordinate its work related to research and statistics with the United Nations Population Division in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

141. In that regard, the Commission noted with interest the activities of IOM and its close collaboration with ESCAP. The two organizations were co-chairs of the Thematic Working Group on International Migration, including Human Trafficking, under the auspices of the Regional Coordination Mechanism. The Commission was further informed that ESCAP and IOM had signed a memorandum of understanding in June 2007 to formalize their long-standing collaboration.

142. The Commission noted the progress in the implementation of Commission resolution 63/7 on international migration and development for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. One delegation requested that the secretariat assist the members and associate members of ESCAP in the implementation of the resolution, including through the facilitation of South-South cooperation. Some delegations requested that the secretariat provide the members and associate members with a forum for regular dialogue. One delegation noted that the outcome of the proposed high-level meeting on international migration and development could also serve as a regional input to the second meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, which is to be held in the Philippines in October 2008.

143. The Commission recognized that persons with disabilities represented one of the most marginalized and underserved groups. Persons with disabilities were characterized by high levels of illiteracy, poor nutritional status, high unemployment rates and low occupational mobility. One delegation emphasized that poverty and disability were inextricably connected.

144. Several countries informed the Commission of their recent efforts and strategies aimed at improving the lives of persons with disabilities, including those related to the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action: Towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, 2003-2012.[16] Those measures included the development of legislation, the establishment of coordination mechanisms and the

[15] General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.

[16] E/ESCAP/APDDP/4/Rev.1 (see Commission resolution 59/3).

promotion of the participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes.

145. One delegation expressed appreciation for the work undertaken by the secretariat in advancing the disability agenda, in particular in the context of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, and expressed its support for the outcome document adopted by the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Midpoint Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, held in Bangkok in September 2007, entitled Biwako plus Five: Further Efforts towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.[17]

146. Some delegations recognized that numerous countries in the region had already experienced changes in the age structure of their populations, which had led to ageing societies, and that such change presented socio-economic challenges in meeting the needs of older persons. One delegation supported the proposal to convene a conference on "ageing readiness" in order to explore practical initiatives and share best practices that could better respond to the needs of older persons. Another delegation shared its country's experience in promoting economic preparedness in old age through self-help projects jointly implemented by civil society organizations and the public sector.

147. Several delegations noted that their countries had taken measures in line with their international obligations under the Beijing Platform for Action,[18] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[19] and the Millennium Development Goals in order to enhance gender equality.

148. Several delegations shared the experiences of their countries in establishing community-based services for poor women and children and specific programmes aimed at assisting poor women and women with disabilities and in promoting their advancement through capacity-building for economic empowerment.

149. One delegation stressed that one of the root causes of discrimination and unfair practices against women was ineffective or outdated laws, adding that such laws were being amended in its country. Several delegations indicated that eliminating violence against women was a priority for their Governments. One delegation stated that its country had adopted a zero tolerance policy towards violence against women.

150. One delegation emphasized the need for gender statistics and stated that its country had established a gender-disaggregated information system to ensure the promotion and monitoring of gender equality.

151. Several delegations shared the experience of their countries in creating awareness of the risk of HIV/AIDS with a gender perspective, including by educating diverse stakeholders on reproductive health and reproductive rights issues. One delegation reported that programmes to prevent transmission between spouses and programmes to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV had been strengthened. One delegation also informed the Commission that the issue of gender sensitivity of HIV/AIDS responses had been widely discussed at the 22nd Meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) which had been held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in April 2008.

152. Several delegations noted that there were still significant gaps in achieving gender equality and they were particularly evident in the low participation of women in decision-making and in politics. One delegation requested that the secretariat raise the issue of international migration and its contribution to poverty reduction, gender equality and capacity-building in least developed countries and landlocked developing countries.

153. The representative of Tonga drew attention to the problem of the commercial sexual exploitation of children, especially girls. The delegation requested that the secretariat assist Pacific island developing countries in addressing the issue through capacity development and by providing them with support for their preparations for the third World Congress against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, which is to be held in Brazil in November 2008.

154. The Commission adopted resolution 64/8 on regional implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific.

155. The Commission also adopted resolution 64/9 on the midpoint review of the implementation of the Plan of Action on Population and Poverty adopted at the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference.

156. With regard to resolution 64/9, the delegation of the United States indicated that, while its Government was committed to achieving universal access to reproductive health and had devoted substantial resources to doing so, its commitment was based on its understanding that the reference to the 2005 World Summit Outcome did not create any rights and could not be interpreted as constituting support, endorsement or promotion of abortion.

Sub-item (d)
Countries with special needs: least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

157. The Commission had before it the document (E/ESCAP/64/18) entitled "Emerging issues in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action".

[17] E/ESCAP/APDDP(2)/2.

[18] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[19] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

The document outlined the five priority areas of the Almaty Programme of Action, namely fundamental transit policy issues, infrastructure development and maintenance, trade and trade facilitation, international support measures, and implementation and midterm review. The document also provided a brief overview of the issues encountered in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in the ESCAP region.

158. The Commission took note of the outcome document of the Regional Preparatory Expert Meeting of Euro-Asian Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries for the Mid-term Review of the Almaty Programme of Action, Bangkok, 22-23 April 2008, which had been submitted as an information note (E/ESCAP/64/INF/6).

159. Some delegations of transit developing countries, in expressing their support for landlocked developing countries, outlined the initiatives they had pursued in providing access to the sea for landlocked developing countries and stated that the concerns of landlocked countries had to be taken fully into account while establishing new transport systems.

160. Some delegations noted that, in the economies of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, high transaction costs due to lack of transport infrastructure constituted a major obstacle preventing those countries from being competitive in global markets.

161. The Commission noted that accession to the World Trade Organization provided an important opportunity for integration into the global economy and for the sharing of the benefits of increased trade. It also noted that the pace of the accession was largely in the hands of each acceding developing country, and was based on that country's implementation of WTO-compliant provisions and the successful completion of its bilateral market access negotiations with WTO members. In that context, one delegation reiterated its commitment to continue its support to countries that were in the process of accession.

162. One delegation expressed its support for the work of the SPECA Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing and requested the secretariat to include the conclusions of the thirteenth session of that Working Group, held on 13 March 2008 in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in the report which would be submitted to the global midterm review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, to be held in New York in October 2008.[20]

163. Some delegations emphasized the importance of technical assistance for vulnerable economies, namely least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and offered to provide such assistance.

164. One delegation urged the developed countries to recommit to the completion of the Doha round of trade negotiations and give duty-free and quota-free market access to all exports from all least developed countries.

165. In view of the seriousness of the unprecedented rise in food and fuel prices, the Commission requested the secretariat to consider holding, on an urgent basis, a high-level consultative meeting to address, through partnerships, the challenges of the food and fuel crisis prevailing in Asian and Pacific developing countries, including least developed countries.

166. The Commission also had before it the report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries on its tenth session (E/ESCAP/64/17). One delegation noted that the challenges faced by those countries were highlighted in the document and expressed its support for the recommendations contained therein.

167. Some delegations emphasized the importance of regional cooperation for ensuring that countries in Asia and the Pacific would be able to attain the Millennium Development Goals and to promote development in the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

168. The Commission noted the training provided by the Government of Indonesia for countries in the Pacific in the arts and culture, diplomacy and microfinance, exchange visits for artists and journalists, and technical cooperation in agriculture and fisheries. It also noted the support given by other development partners to technical cooperation among countries in the Pacific and Asia to promote sustainable development.

169. Some delegations welcomed the increased attention given to countries in the Pacific and the strengthening of the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre.

170. One delegation expressed the need for donors to form an effective partnership for development, protection of human rights and pursuance of sustainable development. The delegation noted that, although many countries faced similar challenges, the approaches taken to address those issues should be commensurate with the needs of each country.

Agenda item 3
Management issues

Sub-item (a)
Implementation of Commission resolutions 58/1, 61/1 and 63/3

171. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/64/19, containing a summary of the experiences gained from the implementation of Commission resolutions pertaining to the conference structure, including the outcome of a consultative review process among member States. In her opening remarks, the Executive Secretary indicated that the review had reaffirmed the unique and vital role of the

[20] Pursuant to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 61/212.

Commission as the only comprehensive regional intergovernmental framework in the Asian and Pacific region empowered to collectively review and assess the economic and social progress and environmental sustainability of individual countries and of the region as a whole. The Executive Secretary underscored the importance of the conference structure as a means of enabling the Commission to fulfil that role effectively.

172. Several delegations expressed their appreciation for the participatory and thorough consultations that had taken place among member States on ESCAP reforms for enhanced effectiveness, focus and relevance and for the leadership role taken by the Executive Secretary in that regard. In the context of the overall revision of the conference structure, some delegations stressed the importance of substantive discussions, a focused agenda and the need to align the conference structure with the ongoing efforts to reform the United Nations system, including the importance of collaboration with other United Nations entities and other organizations at the national and subregional levels. In that regard, one delegation expressed its appreciation of the efforts of the Executive Secretary to strengthen collaboration and coherence at the regional level through the Regional Coordination Mechanism.

173. In commenting on the proposed committees that would be subsidiary to the Commission, some delegations supported an issues-based approach, which would allow for more focused discussions and facilitate the identification of delegates for meetings and country-level follow-up to committee decisions. The need for flexibility in setting an agenda that would address emerging issues such as climate change, energy and food security and inflation and take into account the diversity and size of the membership of the Commission was stressed. One delegation stated that there was a need to focus on poverty reduction in a separate committee, while another delegation supported a stand-alone ICT committee in line with the proposed structure of the committees outlined in document E/ESCAP/64/19. One delegation emphasized the special needs of least developed countries and small island developing States and the need to enable the participation of delegates from those countries in meetings under the conference structure.

174. One delegation supported a strengthened Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ACPR) as a vital aspect of the continued improvement of the Commission, in order to ensure enhanced effectiveness and relevance in terms of reflecting the needs and priorities of its membership.

175. Some delegations expressed their commitment and determination to continue efforts to reform the Commission for enhanced effectiveness and efficiency in terms of development results.

176. The Commission adopted resolution 64/1 on the restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission.

177. The Commission adopted the resolution with the understanding that the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries and the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries would continue to apply the terms of reference listed in Commission resolution 58/1, annexes VI and VII, as appropriate.

Sub-item (b)
Programme performance report for the biennium 2006-2007

178. The Commission took note of document E/ESCAP/64/20, containing the ESCAP programme performance report for the biennium 2006-2007, which included highlights of programme achievements by thematic areas, as well as results and lessons learned under each of the eight subprogrammes during the biennium.

Sub-item (c)
Biennial evaluation report for 2006-2007

179. The Commission took note of document E/ESCAP/64/21, containing a report on evaluations carried out by the secretariat during the biennium 2006-2007. The report focused on the main findings and recommendations from those evaluation exercises and provided an overview of the secretariat's monitoring and evaluation system, which was launched by the Executive Secretary in July 2007.

180. One delegation, in reference to the four nations initiative on governance and management of the United Nations,[21] noted the importance of strengthening monitoring and evaluation in the United Nations Secretariat, including at ESCAP, in order to enhance the delivery of programmes and services to member States.

181. Another delegation stressed the importance of monitoring and evaluation in the context of strengthening results-based management and expressed its strong support for the initiatives of the secretariat in that regard. The same delegation welcomed the launch of a monitoring and evaluation system at ESCAP by the Executive Secretary and requested that complementary evaluation guidelines be issued in the near future.

Sub-item (d)
Draft strategic framework for the biennium 2010-2011

182. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/64/22/Rev.1, containing the draft strategic framework for ESCAP for the period 2010-2011. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that efforts had been made to ensure a more focused and results-oriented draft strategic framework, building on the comparative advantages of ESCAP. The Executive Secretary indicated that an initial draft of the strategic framework had been reviewed by ACPR at its special session on 19 March 2008, and that major changes, as

[21] See http://www.the4ni.org/.

suggested by the Advisory Committee, had been incorporated into the draft strategic framework contained in the above document.

183. The Commission generally endorsed the draft strategic framework for ESCAP for the period 2010-2011, subject to the comments and reservations set out below.

184. One delegation requested that changes be made in order to better reflect economic issues, including those on trade and infrastructure, in the section on overall orientation and requested the inclusion of issues related to road safety in subprogramme 3.

185. The delegation of one country requested the insertion of "other internationally agreed development goals" in the expected accomplishment (c) of proposed subprogramme 1 in order to ensure consistency with the overall orientation presented in section II of the document.

186. One delegation stressed the importance of harmonizing the programme structure of the strategic framework with the conference structure of the Commission, particularly referring to subprogramme 5 "Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction" in E/ESCAP/64/22/Rev.1.

187. One delegation expressed reservations about the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly containing a proposal requesting increased resources, including posts, for ESCAP. In the view of that delegation, an ESCAP budget increase of such a magnitude would be unnecessary. Several delegations expressed reservations on proposed subprogramme 8, which would involve the establishment of new ESCAP subregional offices. Those delegations felt the proposed subprogramme should be considered carefully based on a more detailed explanation from the ESCAP secretariat. One delegation expressed the view that the proposed subprogramme 8 might duplicate work carried out under the proposed subprogramme 1.

188. The Executive Secretary informed those delegations that the General Assembly, in its resolution 62/236, had requested the Secretary-General to submit a proposal to the Assembly at its resumed sixty-second session to improve the delivery of the mandates of development-related activities of the United Nations Secretariat. The Secretary-General's proposal for ESCAP was aimed at addressing the gaps in the capacity of the secretariat to undertake its mandated activities and ensuring more balanced programming for all five subregions of the ESCAP region. The Executive Secretary clarified that the subregional approach was a modality that was not new to the Commission. The secretariat had an existing subregional office for the Pacific, namely the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre, which was mandated to promote subregional cooperation, as well as cooperation between the Pacific and Asia. The secretariat drew attention to past declarations of the Commission that reaffirmed its commitment to and recognized its vital role in enhancing regional and subregional cooperation, such as the Shanghai Declaration (resolution 60/1) and the Almaty Declaration (resolution 63/1).

189. In response to a question by one delegation as to why ESCAP would establish a subregional office in Indonesia for South-East Asia, when ESCAP headquarters was located in Bangkok, which was part of South-East Asia, the Executive Secretary informed the delegation that the proposal contained in the report of the Secretary-General was for the establishment of a liaison office, which would, inter alia, promote cooperation with the secretariat of ASEAN.

190. One delegation expressed support for the subregional approach to development, noting that it was important to take into account the subregional groupings of other organizations, such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The delegation also drew attention to the need to ensure that inclusion of a country in a particular subregion did not preclude it from participating in activities focusing on other subregions.

191. One delegation welcomed and expressed support for the efforts to strengthen the role of ESCAP, in keeping with overall efforts to strengthen the role of the United Nations. While taking note of the views of some delegations on the issue of subregional cooperation, the delegation expressed the hope that member States would pay close attention to the views of developing countries on the issue and support efforts to enhance the effectiveness and influence of ESCAP, including the ongoing reform efforts.

192. The Executive Secretary noted that the regional commissions that had subregional offices as part of their secretariat structures had been able to extend their outreach and deliver their programmes of work to their members in a more effective and balanced manner. The Executive Secretary also stated that it was important for ESCAP to focus on addressing the needs of its developing member countries and that a strengthened subregional presence would enable ESCAP to respond more effectively to the needs of those countries.

193. Two delegations stressed the importance of implementing the proposed strategic framework in coordination with other United Nations entities for enhanced coherence and in support of "Delivering as one".

Sub-item (e)
Strengthening the United Nations development pillar in the Asia-Pacific region

194. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/64/38 on the report of the Secretary-General on improving the effective and efficient delivery of the mandates covering development-related activities and revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (A/62/708).

195. One delegation expressed the view that a decision on the proposal contained in the report of the

Secretary-General regarding the establishment of ESCAP subregional offices required a detailed discussion of all relevant issues and adherence to necessary procedures, fully taking into account the views of ESCAP member States. In the view of the delegation, the proposal should further define the breakdown of responsibilities between subregional offices and ESCAP headquarters.

196. The secretariat informed the Commission that the General Assembly, in its resolution 45/248 B, had reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and that the proposals of the Secretary-General contained in his report would be reviewed by Member States in the Assembly, in accordance with established procedures.

197. One delegation reiterated the priorities of the Secretary-General to strengthen the United Nations development pillar and the development agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals. It also indicated that the work of ESCAP should better reflect the real needs of the region, in which many people lived in poverty in areas prone to environmental degradation, and that it should serve to improve people's lives in terms of economic and environmental security.

Sub-item (f)
Work of the regional institutions

198. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/64/23 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/64/24 and Corr.1 and 2, E/ESCAP/64/25 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/64/26 and Corr.1 and E/ESCAP/64/27 and Corr.1, containing, respectively, the reports of the ESCAP regional institutions, namely: the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific (CAPSA), the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM) and the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT).

199. The Commission also had before it documents E/ESCAP/64/28 and Corr.1 and E/ESCAP/64/29 and Corr.1, which summarized the outcomes of mandated reviews of the performance of UNAPCAEM and APCICT, respectively.

200. In her introduction, the Executive Secretary informed the Commission that she attached great importance to the work of the regional institutions. SIAP and APCICT fulfilled key capacity-building needs and served as vital training arms of the Commission. With regard to CAPSA, APCTT and UNAPCAEM, the Executive Secretary indicated that those institutions had tremendous potential and that she intended to devote particular attention to turning them into centres of excellence, particularly in the area of the transfer of technologies for South-South cooperation.

201. Several delegations commended the work of the five regional institutions in their respective areas of work over the past year and a number of other delegations reiterated their commitment to providing continued support for the work of the regional institutions. Several delegations requested that the secretariat support the regional institutions in ensuring greater financial sustainability and urged members and associate members to increase their annual contributions to the institutions.

202. One delegation requested that the secretariat enhance guidelines on fundraising for regional institutions, including diversification of funding sources and allowing greater flexibility on modalities for contributions. The delegation stressed that regional institutions should be responsive to the priority needs of member States and should focus on the practical results of their activities.

203. Some delegations commended the excellent training and other activities in ICT conducted by APCICT. One delegation demonstrated an interest in benefiting from the knowledge and information sharing facilitated by the Centre. The representative of the Republic of Korea, as host Government, thanked those countries that had participated in the activities of APCICT, including members of the Governing Council, and noted the progress and achievements made by the Centre, including the organization of several important training workshops and research and advisory work, in the short period of time since the institution was opened in mid-2006. The representative of Mongolia acknowledged the work of APCICT on the project for the establishment of an academy of ICT essentials for government leaders, and expressed an interest in collaborating with the Centre in strengthening the capacity of government officials on policy planning to build a knowledge economy. APCICT had become a platform for developing and promoting the use of ICT among member countries.

204. The representative of India expressed the view that APCTT had increasingly been recognized in the region as a promoter of technology transfer and South-South cooperation in the area of technological innovation and indicated that it was considering funding the second phase of the project on national innovation systems, upon finalization of a trust fund agreement with ESCAP. The work undertaken by APCTT on "green grass-roots innovation" was appreciated as was the APCTT website, which contained valuable information on innovation management, technology transfer and grass-roots innovation. The representative of India also requested countries to consider contributing non-reimbursable loan experts to APCTT. The representative of Pakistan noted the important role played by APCTT in the region, expressed appreciation

that APCTT had acted upon suggestions made at the annual Governing Council meetings and expressed the intention of the Government of Pakistan to increase its annual contribution to the Centre. In accordance with paragraph 9 of the statute of APCTT,[22] the Commission elected, along with the host country, India, the following countries to the Governing Council of the Centre for the period 2008-2011: Bangladesh, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

205. Some delegations recognized the important work carried out by CAPSA and UNAPCAEM in the agricultural sphere and expressed the view that the work of those institutions had assumed great importance in efforts to promote the food security of member countries. The representative of Pakistan noted that the challenges of the post-green revolution, such as pests and diseases, declining water resources and land and environmental degradation, posed serious threats to food security and the environmental sustainability of agricultural production systems, and should be addressed. The representative also noted that reducing rural poverty through improving the competitiveness of agricultural production could be supported through the work of the regional institutions of ESCAP.

206. Some delegations commended the work that had been carried out by SIAP. The representative of Mongolia emphasized that many of its statisticians and experts had attended the annual training programmes of SIAP, which had contributed immensely to the capacity of its statistical institutions to monitor progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other sectoral developments, and that the Government of Mongolia was considering increasing its contribution to SIAP. The representative of Japan indicated that there was a possibility that the Government's financial contribution to SIAP might be reduced substantially owing to the domestic financial situation and emphasized the request of the Governing Council that SIAP formulate a long-term strategic plan for ensuring financial sustainability. The delegation also requested Governments to consult with their national statistical offices so that their demand for statistical training activities in the Tokyo metropolitan area-based courses would be fully reflected in future requests.

207. Several delegations noted that UNAPCAEM had made progress in implementing its programme of work in areas such as conservation technologies for agricultural resources, biofuels, value added agricultural products processing, climate change and the clean development mechanism, as well as the testing of agricultural machinery through a proposal to establish an Asian network for such testing. The representative of Pakistan noted that the human resources base and the operational management of the Centre had been strengthened and enhanced. Information and knowledge sharing and public relations activities had been improved as a result of the improved design of its website, the issuance of research publications and partnership building activities with the United Nations country team in China, including key counterpart institutions in the host country, the Centre's focal point institutions in the region and other stakeholders. One delegation agreed with the finding contained in the review of UNAPCAEM that it was important for the Centre to increase the scope of its technical cooperation activities outside the host country.[23]

208. In her concluding remarks, the Executive Secretary expressed appreciation to the Commission for its support for the regional institutions, including the generous support received from the host Governments of China, India, Indonesia, Japan and the Republic of Korea. The Executive Secretary reiterated her commitment to strengthening the regional institutions as centres of excellence for delivering more effective services to member States.

Sub-item (g)
Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the inspection of results-based management practices at ESCAP

209. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/64/30 presenting the outcome of an inspection of results-based management practices at ESCAP undertaken by the Office of Internal Oversight Services. The Commission took note of the plan of action developed by the secretariat, as contained in the above-mentioned document, in response to the report on the inspection. It also took note of the current status of implementation of the plan. One delegation noted that the report formed a good basis for the reform efforts of ESCAP, including the identification of areas where ESCAP had a comparative advantage.

Sub-item (h)
Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

210. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/64/31 and Corr.1 and E/ESCAP/64/31/Add.1 and Corr.1 containing the report of ACPR. In his capacity as Rapporteur of the Advisory Committee, the representative of Malaysia presented highlights of its activities during the past year.

211. The Commission noted that ACPR had continued to effectively fulfil its role of providing advice to the Executive Secretary and maintaining close cooperation and consultation between the members and the secretariat.

[22] Commission resolution 61/4, annex.

[23] See E/ESCAP/64/28 and Corr.1, chap. III, recommendation 3.

212. Since the sixty-third session of the Commission, ACPR had held eight regular sessions, one ad hoc session, one informal and one special session, seven meetings of the Working Group on the Conference Structure and seven meetings of the Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions.

213. The Advisory Committee had also provided valuable advice to the Executive Secretary on preparations for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission through extensive deliberations on issues related to the theme study, agenda, timetable, dates and venue of the session.

214. Another key focus of the work of ACPR had been the review of the conference structure, in particular through the deliberations of the Working Group on the Conference Structure under the chairmanship of Pakistan. The Working Group had reviewed a survey questionnaire distributed to all member States and had held a debate on the scope, functions and role of the Commission, its committees, special bodies, thematic and sectoral priorities and the format and duration of meetings under a revised conference structure. A draft resolution on the matter (E/ESCAP/64/L.12 and Rev.1) had also been prepared for the consideration of the Commission at its sixty-fourth session.

215. The Advisory Committee had also advised the Executive Secretary on ways to advance the implementation and recommendations proposed in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on results-based management practices at ESCAP and the secretariat's action plan to implement those recommendations. In addition, ACPR had reviewed the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2010-2011 and had provided comments and suggestions on it.

216. Some delegations expressed their appreciation for the report of ACPR and for the work it had conducted over the previous year. In particular, they noted the value of the advice of ACPR on preparations for the annual sessions of the Commission, the eighth session of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries, the review of the conference structure, the review of the implementation of Commission resolutions and the draft strategic framework for 2010-2011. In commending the work of ACPR, and expressing the hope that all representatives would continue to support and strengthen it, one delegation noted that the secretariat should closely follow the recommendations of ACPR aimed at making a better contribution to the economic and social development of the region.

Sub-item (i)
Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies

Report of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia

217. The Commission had before it the report of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP), transmitted for information through a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/64/INF/1 and Corr.1).

218. The Commission was informed about the activities of CCOP undertaken in 2007, which had been focused on enhancing the coordination of the geoscience programmes of the national geoscientific institutions of its member countries, including continued human resources development and institutional capacity-building and increased flow of technical information and transfer of technology among its member countries, cooperating countries and cooperating organizations. With regard to the georesources sector, two activities were highlighted: the successful completion of the institutional capacity-development project and work on a petroleum policy and management project. In the geo-environmental sector, CCOP had focused its activities on natural hazards and environmental impact assessment in order to assist member countries in tsunami hazard planning and management.

219. With regard to the geo-information sector of CCOP, the Commission noted its active involvement in implementing General Assembly resolution 60/192 on the International Year of Planet Earth, 2008, particularly in the preparation of a publication on the geological heritage of East and Southeast Asia as an attractive and informative directory of geologic sites.

Report of the Mekong River Commission

220. The Commission had before it the report of the Mekong River Commission (MRC), transmitted for information through a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/64/INF/2 and Corr.1).

221. The Commission was informed of the activities of MRC implemented in 2007, following the adoption of its strategic plan, 2006-2010, by the MRC Council in 2006. Those activities had been guided by an integrated approach to water resources management, emphasizing basin-wide development plans and cooperation with its regional development partners and dialogue partners, China and Myanmar. The Commission noted the important role played by the member countries of MRC in the implementation of all its activities and programmes for the sustainable development of water and related resources in the Mekong river basin, including the Mekong Partnership Programme. The representative of MRC reiterated the commitment of the organization to continue its cooperation with ESCAP, in particular in implementing Commission resolution 56/1 on the Decade of Greater Mekong Subregion Development Cooperation, 2000-2009.

222. The Commission noted that several MRC programmes, such as its flood management and mitigation programme and the navigation programme, had become fully operational in 2007 and that several other programmes had been started, with strong support from the organization's development partners. Those programmes included phase 2 of the programme on the basin development plan and follow-up to the water utilization programme. It also noted that three new

programmes had been initiated in 2007 for hydropower development, drought management and information and knowledge management.

223. One delegation pointed to the efforts of MRC in promoting the use of water and related resources in the Mekong river basin in equitable and sustainable ways as a unique and important task, in view of the intensified development process under way in countries of the region and the pressure that had put on the environment and on water resources. The Commission welcomed the progress that had been made in different areas of MRC work and called on MRC member countries to intensify their efforts to advance their agreed workplans and implement existing agreements. It also expressed its gratitude for the support extended to MRC by bilateral and multilateral donors and took note of the progress made with its dialogue partners, China and Myanmar.

Report of the Typhoon Committee

224. The Commission had before it the report of the Typhoon Committee, transmitted for information through a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/64/INF/3 and Corr.1).

225. The Commission was informed of the activities of the Typhoon Committee that had been implemented in 2007, following the adoption of its strategic plan, 2007-2011, in 2006. It noted important achievements, major issues and future directions related to three major areas of work of the Typhoon Committee: its meteorological component, hydrological component and disaster prevention and preparedness component. The report of the Typhoon Committee described the progress made in the implementation of the strategic plan, in particular the integration of the three key components in order to more effectively contribute to socio-economic development in the context of the three key areas. The report also described initiatives such as the development of the organization's disaster information system as a strategic instrument for supporting its efforts to become a leading subregional organization dealing with cyclone-related disasters.

226. One delegation expressed its appreciation for the new approach that had been adopted by the Typhoon Committee to assist its members in better managing typhoon-related disasters. It called on the donor community and international organizations to increase their support for the Typhoon Committee so that it could realize its goal of becoming the world's best subregional organization involved in the management of cyclone-related disasters.

227. The Commission took note of the new institutional setting of the secretariat of the Typhoon Committee, which had been moved to Macao, China, in February 2007, and the strong support afforded to the Committee by the Government of China and the Macao Special Administrative Region. The Commission noted that Thailand would host the forty-first session of the Typhoon Committee in the latter part of 2008 to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of its establishment by the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East in Bangkok in 1968.

228. The representative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) informed the Commission that, at the fifteenth World Meteorological Congress, which had been held in Geneva in May 2007, sincere appreciation had been expressed to two regional intergovernmental bodies: the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones and the Typhoon Committee, for the excellent work that was being carried out to promote the strengthening of the disaster preparedness, warning and prevention measures related to tropical cyclones, storm surges and floods in the region. The representative of WMO indicated that the organization would continue making every effort to fully support the work of those bodies.

Agenda item 4
Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions

229. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/64/32, which provided an overview of the secretariat's technical cooperation activities and extrabudgetary contributions in 2007.

230. In her introductory remarks, the Executive Secretary underscored the critical importance of the technical cooperation work carried out by ESCAP in ensuring that analytical and normative work was well grounded in national realities, stressing that it was a vital link that made the Commission a more relevant and responsive body. The Executive Secretary noted that, in undertaking technical cooperation work, ESCAP must ensure that there is a clear focus on transboundary issues and add value to the work of the United Nations country teams.

231. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that, during the past year, partnerships with United Nations and other entities had been a key element of the ESCAP technical cooperation strategy. ESCAP had contributed to and utilized the common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes in programme planning and implementation. The Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism, chaired by ESCAP, had provided a platform for United Nations entities to strengthen inter-agency cooperation and enhance system-wide coherence at the regional level.

232. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the total contributions received by the secretariat for technical cooperation activities in 2007 from the regular budget and from voluntary contributions amounted to approximately $15 million. The cost of the delivery of ESCAP programmes in 2007 amounted to approximately $17.6 million, an increase of about 30 per cent over the preceding year.

233. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that a total of approximately $5.5 million had been expended through grants to countries and

agencies under the Multi-Donor Voluntary Trust Fund on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia. Those grants had been provided to support tsunami advisory services, the dissemination of warnings and other disaster communications at the regional and national levels, capacity-building in standard operating procedures and related tools and community-based hazard mapping. Several United Nations partners had made important contributions to the fund, including the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and WMO. The Executive Secretary indicated that multi-donor trust funds of that type were a unique service that ESCAP could provide to member States, and one whose potential could be further advanced.

234. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that ESCAP also worked closely with the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in promoting key South-South cooperation efforts in areas such as Pacific connectivity through ICT and South-South cooperation for disaster risk reduction. South-South cooperation was an underlying modality for a number of other major regional initiatives, such as the Asian Highway network, the Trans-Asian Railway network and the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement.

235. The Executive Secretary expressed her deep appreciation to the donors, from both developed and developing countries, as well as other key partners, whose strong support had enabled the secretariat to undertake a range of technical cooperation programmes that had contributed to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

236. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that, in the coming year, she would be emphasizing a stronger programme approach, focusing on new modalities for the delivery of technical assistance. The Executive Secretary looked forward to the continuing support of the Commission, including an increase in the level of voluntary contributions for the technical cooperation programme, as reaffirmation of its commitment to strengthening regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific.

237. Several delegations commended the secretariat on its technical cooperation work and the progress of such work in 2007. One delegation urged the secretariat to further strengthen its technical cooperation work, with particular attention to least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, for more balanced and inclusive development in the region.

238. One delegation noted that ESCAP technical cooperation activities were an important vehicle for the promotion of economic cooperation and social development in the region. It also stated that, in the context of United Nations reform and the situation of the ESCAP region, ESCAP should adopt a broader, regional perspective in its technical cooperation work, reducing the number of specific operational projects and making greater efforts to promote economic and social cooperation and sustainable development. Given the large proportion of the population in the region living in extreme poverty, that delegation requested that ESCAP mobilize more resources to undertake work to reduce poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

239. The Commission noted the following contributions pledged by members and associate members of ESCAP for 2008.

240. *Brunei Darussalam.* The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Brunei Darussalam would make the following contributions:

	$
SIAP	15 000
Pacific Trust Fund	1 000

241. *China.* The delegation of China indicated that its Government would make the following contributions:

ESCAP technical cooperation trust funds and special projects	RMB 1 000 000 and $150 000
	$
UNAPCAEM	20 000
APCTT	20 000
SIAP	40 000

242. *India.* The delegation of India confirmed that its Government would continue to provide funding support at the following existing levels:

	$
APCTT	200 000 (equivalent in rupees)
UNAPCAEM	15 000
SIAP	15 000

243. The delegation of India also announced that an enhanced contribution to SIAP was under consideration. In addition, the Government of India had provided funds for project activities of APCTT. In 2007, the equivalent of $25,000 in Indian rupees had been provided for the project on the promotion of grass-roots innovations in Asian and Pacific countries. The delegation expressed the hope that, on the basis of the outcome of the project, commercialization of the grass-roots innovations would become possible. Finally, the second phase of the project on the promotion of national innovation systems in countries of the Asia-Pacific region was under consideration by the Government, subject to the signing of a trust fund agreement with ESCAP.

244. *Indonesia.* The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Indonesia would make the following contributions:

	$
APCTT	35 000
UNAPCAEM	29 982

245. *Iran (Islamic Republic of).* The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran would make the following contributions:

	$
ESCAP programme of work	20 000
UNAPCAEM	15 000
APCTT	10 000
SIAP	10 000

246. *Japan.* The delegation of Japan indicated that its Government would make the following contributions:

	$
ESCAP programme of work (Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund) (for 2009)	150 000
SIAP (for the period from April 2008 to March 2009)	1 681 080

247. The delegation of Japan also reported that its Government would make an in-kind contribution equivalent to $1,093,770 to SIAP for the period from April 2008 to March 2009. In addition, it would provide fellowships for 61 individuals through the Japan International Cooperation Agency, in cooperation with SIAP.

248. *Macao, China.* The secretariat had received written notification that the government of Macao, China, would make the following contributions:

	$
APCICT	5 000
APCTT	5 000
CAPSA	3 000
SIAP	15 000

249. *Malaysia.* The delegation of Malaysia reiterated its Government's continued commitment to the promotion of the technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announced that its Government would make the following contributions:

	$
APCTT	14 985
CAPSA	10 000
SIAP	20 000

250. *Mongolia.* The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Mongolia would make the following contributions:

	$
ESCAP programme of work	2 500
UNAPCAEM	2 500
SIAP	10 000

251. *Pakistan.* The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Pakistan would make the following contributions:

	$
APCTT	7 500
SIAP	15 000

252. *Republic of Korea.* The delegation of the Republic of Korea reaffirmed its Government's strong support for ESCAP technical cooperation activities through the Republic of Korea-ESCAP cooperation trust fund. Since 1987, approximately $10 million had been contributed. The delegation indicated the Government's commitment to strengthening cooperation with ESCAP in order to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the technical cooperation activities provided by the fund and reiterated its strong support for APCICT.

253. *Sri Lanka.* The delegation of Sri Lanka acknowledged with thanks the various contributions received by its Government. It indicated that its Government would make contributions, as in previous years, as follows:

	$
UNAPCAEM	5 000
APCTT	5 000
SIAP	10 000

254. In addition, the delegation reported that the Government of Sri Lanka would announce its intended contributions to APCICT and CAPSA at a later date.

255. *Thailand.* The delegation of Thailand announced that, in 2008, the Government would make contributions as follows:

	$
APCTT	15 000
UNAPCAEM	15 000
CAPSA	10 000
SIAP	20 000
CCOP	40 000
Typhoon Committee	12 000
Tropical Cyclones Trust Fund	2 000
Pacific Trust Fund	1 000
Trust fund for the participation of the disadvantaged economies in transition and Mongolia	2 000

256. In addition, the delegation announced that its Government would make an additional contribution of 1,620,000 baht for the cost of the local office of CCOP.

257. *Turkey*. The secretariat had received written notification that the Government of Turkey would make the following contribution:

	$
Tsunami Trust Fund	100 000

258. In concluding, the Executive Secretary thanked the Commission for its support of the secretariat's technical cooperation activities and thanked those Governments that had pledged financial support for 2008. The Executive Secretary emphasized the importance of that area of work, in particular as the outcomes of technical cooperation projects had provided valuable inputs to the normative and analytical work of ESCAP. The Executive Secretary noted that, over the past several years, extrabudgetary contributions by donors had increased. That positive trend was primarily due to increased contributions by developing countries in the region and was thus a reflection of the importance placed by the members and associate members of the Commission on South-South cooperation.

259. The Executive Secretary assured the Commission that the secretariat would continue to work closely with other United Nations entities, including the United Nations country teams, to ensure that its operational activities would be conducted in the context of country-level United Nations development assistance frameworks, thus ensuring synergies and avoiding duplication and promoting overall system-wide coherence. In conclusion, the Executive Secretary stated that the secretariat would continue to plan its technical cooperation programme in close cooperation with member States in order to ensure demand-driven projects that would yield concrete results for the benefit of the ESCAP membership.

Agenda item 5
Dates, venue and theme topic for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission

260. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/64/33.

261. Several delegations expressed their preference for convening the sixty-fifth session of the Commission in late April or mid-May 2009 in Bangkok.

262. In the deliberations concerning the dates for the sixty-fifth session, it was noted that there would be a need to take into consideration the Thai new year holiday in mid-April and major national holidays between 30 April and early May. It was also noted that consultations on the dates for the sixty-fourth session had spanned several months. The delegations of Japan and Thailand favoured consideration of two options over the period from the third week of April to mid-May, while the delegations of Australia, Indonesia, Mongolia and Pakistan indicated that they were flexible regarding the dates for the sixty-fifth session.

263. Concerning the options for the theme topic for the sixty-fifth session presented in document E/ESCAP/64/33, several delegations, noting the current food crisis, expressed a preference either for the option on sustainable agriculture and food security (see E/ESCAP/64/33, para. 5 (f)) or a combination of that option with the one on water security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/64/33, para. 5 (d)). Some delegations indicated that, while their earlier preferences had been for other options, including those on the information society and knowledge economy and public-private partnerships, they were flexible. The delegation of the Russian Federation advised the secretariat to consider the value added dimension that it could bring to the theme topic on sustainable agriculture and food security, and to avoid duplication with the work of other United Nations entities, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

264. The Commission adopted decision 64/1 on the dates, venue and theme topic for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission.

265. It was agreed that the study to be prepared by the secretariat on the theme topic would take into account issues related to the knowledge economy as they pertained to sustainable agriculture and food security.

Agenda item 6
Theme topic for the sixty-fourth session: "Energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific"

Ministerial round table

266. The ministerial round table began with a presentation by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP on the theme study entitled *Energy Security and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*.[24] The presentation was followed by a report on the key outcomes of the Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2008, which had been held in Bangkok on 27 April 2008. The introductory meeting was followed by two rounds of interactive panel discussions, which were divided into two groups: ministerial and development partners. The Executive Secretary moderated the discussions. The panellists for the ministerial group were:

H.E. Mr. Kim Jong-hoon, Minister for Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Republic of Korea

Hon. Mr. Fred Fono, Deputy Prime Minister, Solomon Islands

H.E. Lt. Gen. Poonpirom Liptapanlop, Minister of Energy, Thailand

H.E. Mr. Liu Jieyi, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, China

H.E. Mr. K.C. Singh, Secretary, Ministry for External Affairs, India

[24] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.II.F.13.

The panellists for the development partners group comprised:

H.E. Ms. Jennifer Mary Shipley, Representative of Club de Madrid and former Prime Minister of New Zealand

Ms. Ursula Schaefer-Preuss, Vice-President, Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, Asian Development Bank

Mr. Martin Khor, Director, Third World Network

267. In her presentation, the Executive Secretary summarized the key findings and recommendations of the theme study, highlighting the key energy security challenges in Asia and the Pacific, the features of a sustainable energy framework and the way forward. The Executive Secretary explained that energy security challenges in the region were the result of the rapid growth in demand for energy, the skyrocketing energy prices, uncertainties with regard to other development concerns and the multifold threat to development, which also posed grave threats to development prospects for countries in the region on all fronts: economic, social and environmental, including climate change. The Executive Secretary stressed that, although the region had experienced rapid growth in energy demand, some countries, in particular the least developed and landlocked countries and small island developing States, had lagged behind. Those countries expected to bear the brunt of the adverse effects of rising energy insecurity. In that regard, the Executive Secretary expressed great concern about the impact of the energy crisis on the poor and the region's growing dependence on fossil fuels, which made countries vulnerable to high energy prices and the effects of climate change.

268. In addressing energy security, the Executive Secretary highlighted the need for a shift towards a new sustainable energy paradigm, in order to create a virtuous cycle of sustainable energy. The Executive Secretary identified three major elements of that virtuous cycle: an emphasis on the quality of economic growth; a greater reliance on renewable energy and improved energy efficiency; and strengthened efforts to mitigate climate change. Movement towards such a sustainable energy paradigm would not signal a curbing of economic growth, but would rather discourage waste and high energy consumption, which have far-reaching economic and environmental costs. The ultimate objective would be to achieve inclusive and sustainable development.

269. The Executive Secretary emphasized that movement towards such a paradigm shift would not be a matter of simply using technologies and technical know-how, but that it would also require political will and policy foresight. Moreover, an energy paradigm shift could not be pursued by only a few countries, but required that all member States act through regional cooperation. In addition, there was great urgency to promote public-private partnerships in order to expand the energy infrastructure and energy trade in the region. In that context, she highlighted the vision of the theme study, the creation of a trans-Asian energy system spanning the entire region and linking together the various subregions through a common energy infrastructure. In concluding, the Executive Secretary offered the services of the secretariat to assist countries in pursuing the strategy and vision, utilizing its multiple roles as a promoter of the paradigm shift, an agent of change, a facilitator and a regional hub of knowledge.

270. The Co-chair of the Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2008 reported on the key outcomes of the forum to the round table. The forum was held on the theme "Energy security: opportunities through regional energy cooperation and public-private partnerships", as a side-event of the sixty-fourth session of the Commission. The forum was attended by approximately 250 participants from member States, the private sector, civil society, intergovernmental organizations and United Nations bodies. The Co-chair informed the round table that regional cooperation and public-private partnerships to enhance energy security were key policy options to achieve sustainable development. He stressed that the region must find ways to expand access to renewable energy sources without jeopardizing long-term prosperity and environmental sustainability, and that energy security, energy access and energy efficiency were vital components of a long-term energy strategy for the region. In his statement, the Co-chair stressed the need to change from independent to interdependent energy policies by building trust within the region. The Co-chair emphasized that government policies should facilitate the necessary level of energy infrastructure investment, including small-scale projects that would introduce important new supplies of energy. The Co-chair pointed out that collective efforts by various stakeholders were needed for climate change mitigation and adaptation and that all member States would have a role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the new energy system paradigm.

271. The Minister for Trade of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea informed the round table that his country had achieved rapid economic growth over the past decades despite its own very limited energy resources and its reliance on imported energy sources. The Minister stated that energy security in his country meant a secure supply of energy at affordable prices. In that context, he stated that the new Government of the Republic of Korea had placed top priority in the national development agenda on energy security. In that regard, his Government had pursued supply-side joint development and exploration, cost-effective transportation and coordination with energy-exporting countries, and the development of new and renewable energy sources to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and address climate change, with a view to transforming the Republic of Korea into a low-carbon and environmentally friendly economy. The Minister highlighted three key areas in which to promote regional cooperation, including the proposed trans-Asian energy system, the sharing of best practices in promoting renewable energy and the transfer of technology.

272. In his presentation, the Deputy Prime Minister of Solomon Islands highlighted the unique set of issues on energy security faced by the Pacific island States. Most of the island economies in the Pacific were not endowed with domestic hydrocarbon resources and were highly dependent on imported energy. The Deputy Prime Minister stressed that energy security had recently become a critical issue for two reasons. First, the Pacific island States could no longer depend on multinational oil companies for an uninterrupted supply of oil since many of those companies had shifted their focus to larger-scale businesses in other parts of the world. Second, sustained high oil prices had affected the affordability of oil products. To reduce reliance on energy imports, the Minister stated that the Pacific island countries had been investing in renewable energy sources, including hydro, solar and wind. The Deputy Prime Minister also stated that, by undertaking bulk procurement practices to pool available resources, the Pacific island States would benefit from an improved supply of oil products, efficient transportation, price competitiveness and better financial management tools.

273. The Minister of Energy of Thailand emphasized that ensuring sustainable development through the provision of affordable energy was important. High oil prices had presented an opportunity for increasing the energy supply and demand-side management, in particular in the manufacturing and services sectors, as well as in households and schools. The Minister stated that Thailand was also seeking to further the exploration of oil and gas domestically and internationally, in addition to conducting research and installing renewable and alternative energy technologies. The Government aimed to reduce energy intensity and greenhouse gas emissions, which would contribute to sustainable development. Furthermore, the Minister informed the round table that Thailand was conducting a three-year nuclear feasibility study in the possible construction of nuclear power plants (4,000 MW), in line with International Atomic Energy Agency standards, to be completed within 13 years. The Minister also noted that Thailand was becoming a hub for the production of gas and electricity in South-East Asia.

274. In his presentation, the Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs of China stated that the GDP of China between 1991 and 2005, which had grown at a rate of 10 per cent, had been achieved at an energy growth rate of 5 per cent. The Assistant Minister also stated that, under the eleventh 5-year plan, covering the period from 2005 to 2010, China intended to achieve a 20 per cent reduction in its energy-consumption per unit of GDP. In 2007, the level of energy consumption was 48 per cent lower than that of 1990 due to adjustments in the energy mix, the utilization of advanced technologies, the phasing out of energy-intensive industries and energy conservation education for the public. China had diversified its energy supply by optimizing the energy mix. China also planned to increase its share of renewable energy from 7 per cent to 15 per cent by 2020. Overall, China had met 90 per cent of its energy needs using domestically produced energy. The Government was simultaneously actively pursing environmental protection. China had taken an active part in a number of multilateral energy mechanisms and would work closely in harmony with all countries for clean and sustainable development in the region.

275. The Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of India informed the round table about a national action plan on climate change to be issued by June 2008. The Secretary also stated that India would host the International Renewable Energy Conference in 2010. The Secretary emphasized that political commitment would be important to promote renewable energy, but that technology and finance would also be critical. On the issue of biofuels, the Secretary expressed his view that the question regarding the trade-offs between biofuels and food security should be addressed. The Secretary stated that India had vast and rich experience in developing and utilizing renewable energy technologies. However, the challenge lay in lowering development costs. The Secretary invited member countries of the Commission to look into India's regional training programmes on wind, hydro, biofuels and solar energy development to meet their energy needs.

276. When the discussion was opened to the floor, the representative of Bangladesh noted that energy security was indispensible for equitable growth and in order to reduce threats to social harmony and development. He informed the round table that several demand management measures to augment and diversify energy supply through improvement of the power grid had been implemented in Bangladesh, including power plant repairs, transmission and distribution loss reduction and the construction of new power plants. The delegation also mentioned that trade-offs in sector management had been insufficiently addressed in the theme study. The delegation touched upon a number of relevant issues, including the economic rationale for renewable options, limited access to energy technologies, the lack of foreign direct investment, difficulties in changing consumption patterns and the oligarchic energy supply market. The delegation called upon the international community to mobilize gains from energy-producing countries to assist low-income developing countries.

277. The delegation of Kazakhstan indicated that energy security was of great importance to the country as it would become one of the world's 10 largest producers and exporters of oil and gas by 2017. Kazakhstan also possessed large deposits of uranium and would be playing an important role in the development of the nuclear energy sector. The delegation indicated that as an energy supplier Kazakhstan was fully aware of its responsibility for ensuring a global energy balance and security, and stressed that energy security was necessary not only to ensure a stable supply of energy resources but also a predictable and consistent demand for energy. The delegation reiterated the proposal to develop a global energy and environment strategy made by the President

of Kazakhstan to the General Assembly in September 2007 (see A/62/PV.4). The proposal could be discussed at the global summit on sustainable development to be held in 2012. The delegation suggested that energy security required a collective approach, including working with international organizations and other stakeholders.

278. The representative of the Russian Federation stated that energy security was a global priority and that the Russian Federation was an active participant in the global market. Resolving the energy security issue would require hydrocarbons and the development of alternative energy options. A regional energy cooperation market would benefit both exporters and importers. The Russian Federation was increasing its interest in the Asia-Pacific region in the areas of oil and gas. ESCAP provided an ideal platform for a dialogue between buyers and sellers of energy resources and could be active in reviewing the possibility for joint infrastructure development, the harmonization of standards and the analysis of national policies related to transit of energy. The Russian Federation had already been involved in a programme of subregional cooperation in North-East Asia under the ESCAP framework and planned to work actively with ESCAP and other international institutions to address energy security through regional cooperation.

279. The representative of Pakistan suggested that ESCAP ensure that the implementation strategy emanating from the theme study was implemented and monitored. The representative emphasized that there were a number of countries and subregional organizations at different levels that could benefit from a coalition of subregional groups where experiences and lessons learned could be shared. The representative also stressed the need to recognize the link between poverty and food security and energy, and suggested that steps should be taken to establish a trust fund to assist countries in addressing energy and food shocks. Concern was expressed regarding integrating ecological costs, which, by increasing fuel prices, could negatively affect the poor.

280. The representative of Club de Madrid and the former Prime Minister of New Zealand was the first panelist under round two of the discussions. The representative informed the round table that the Club de Madrid had three areas of focus. One area was on post-2012 climate change actions, focusing on mitigation, adaptation, technology and cooperation and finance. To achieve economic growth and mitigate climate change, the representative stressed the need for collaboration, including the consideration of sovereign issues. Energy security was a trans-Asian and an international issue which required countries to work with international organizations such as the United Nations. The representative also noted that solutions to energy issues would never be found unless all stakeholders were brought together, in particular scientists, financial institutions and representatives of civil society. In addition, collaboration between science, innovation and finance were seen as necessary for energy security, and the representative suggested that there would be some progress if ESCAP had the power to convene the above-mentioned stakeholders. The need to expand access to energy services was also raised as an issue of equity rather than energy security. The representative stressed that access to affordable energy services must be an international imperative.

281. The Vice-President of ADB conveyed the message that the Bank wished to further enhance cooperation with ESCAP. In that regard, the virtuous cycle of sustainable energy mentioned in the presentation of the Executive Secretary could be an entry point for ADB and ESCAP to cooperate more closely, in particular in promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency. The Vice-President also informed the round table that ADB was involved in cooperation activities to promote best practices, technology transfer and small-scale renewable energy projects. The Vice-President stated that ADB had finalized a new energy strategy that focused on supporting developing States in moving towards a low-carbon economy, reliable and affordable energy supplies, energy efficiency and renewable energy, as well as maximizing the access to energy services for all and reforming the energy sector. The Vice-President mentioned a number of ADB initiatives to support developing countries, including the energy efficiency initiative, carbon market initiative, sustainable transport initiative and energy-for-all initiative. Finally, the Vice-President stated that ADB was involved in developing an investment framework proposed by the Group of Eight for a climate change programme.

282. The Director of Third World Network noted that there was an opportunity for much greater collaboration with non-governmental organizations in the region. The Director cited a number of facts and issues contained in the theme study to emphasize the challenges faced by the countries of the Asian and Pacific region, in particular those related to climate change and the lack of access to energy supplies for poverty reduction. The Director stressed that the way countries of the region spent money on infrastructure development would have long-term impacts and lock the economies into a fixed consumption pattern for a number of decades. The Director also emphasized that the goals of continued economic growth, access to energy services for the poor, environmental stability and reductions in climate change emissions were noble, but that they involved trade-offs. Since it was difficult to ask countries with fossil fuel resources not to use them, he suggested that consideration be given to what would happen globally if fossil fuel prices were to increase further. The Director posed the difficult question of whether wealthy countries could subsidize poorer countries and observed that ESCAP would be well placed to work on collaboration regarding regional issues.

283. At the conclusion of the diverse stakeholder's discussion, the Executive Secretary invited comments and questions from the floor. The representative of the United States expressed his country's support for many of the policy directions outlined in the theme study and

recommended focusing on open energy markets, energy efficiency and cleaner fossil fuel development as priority areas for further cooperation among States. The representative expressed his delegation's view that it was more appropriate to approach energy security as a global goal that could be achieved with participation from all regions of the world. In that context, intraregional energy trade between Asia and the Pacific and other regions should be encouraged. The representative also stressed the need to explore existing coordination mechanisms for facilitating energy cooperation in the region before creating a new one and emphasized that high-level agreements on energy security could not achieve the goal of regional energy security if they were not accompanied by support at the local level.

284. The representative of Mongolia noted that the high energy prices were placing development efforts in danger, emphasizing the need for the specific situation in each country to be taken into consideration in developing policies and strategies to enhance energy security.

285. The representative of Viet Nam expressed his view that cooperation on energy security should be viewed from many perspectives, including the development of sustainable energy resources, improved efficiency, safety of energy exploration, production and transportation, stabilization of the energy market and protecting the environment. Such cooperation should be approached from a regional perspective, taking into consideration the interests and security of each country with respect to national sovereignty, equality and mutual benefits.

286. The representative of Japan indicated his country's commitment to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and reiterated an announcement made at the World Economic Forum that Japan had launched the Cool Earth Partnership, a new mechanism worth $10 billion to support access to clean energy and energy-efficiency projects in developing countries. With regard to the proposed trans-Asian energy system, he stressed that member States should fully utilize existing frameworks to the fullest extent possible in order to prevent any overlap of activities.

287. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran emphasized the importance of both supply and demand for energy security. Without efforts to protect both producers and consumers, future fluctuations could cause further energy security issues. The representative requested that ESCAP consider both energy demand security and supply security.

Agenda item 7
Policy issues for the Asian and Pacific region

Policy statement by the Executive Secretary

288. The Executive Secretary observed that while the Asian and Pacific region had generated great wealth in a short period, it currently faced a weakening global economy precipitated by the subprime mortgage crisis in the United States. Oil prices had reached unprecedentedly high levels, the lives of hundreds of thousands of people were at risk from rising food prices and countries were being destabilized as citizens rose in protest.

289. The Executive Secretary noted that there was a window of opportunity for ESCAP to be revitalized and positioned as a strategic and critical player in assisting its member States, the private sector and civil society partners to shape a more balanced and integrated economic and social order in the region, which would address poverty, inequality, the region's ecology and human well-being.

290. The Executive Secretary identified four kinds of imbalances in the Asia-Pacific region that needed to be addressed if the region was to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The first was the considerable economic imbalance across the region. While the region was the most dynamic in the world, it still had 640 million people living on less than $1 a day. The Executive Secretary emphasized that the problems in the agricultural sector, which provided the main livelihood of the poor, warranted urgent attention. The ESCAP *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2008* showed that improving agricultural labour productivity could profoundly reduce poverty. Nevertheless, since the 1980s there had been massive reductions in public investment in rural infrastructure and an erosion of public services for the rural poor. The Executive Secretary stressed that those policies needed to be urgently reversed if the region was to find lasting solutions to the current food security crisis gripping the Asia-Pacific region.

291. The second kind of imbalance noted by the Executive Secretary was social imbalance. In many places, social grievances and exclusion continued along the fault lines of ethnicity, religion and class, together with systemic discrimination and violence against women and girls. Social exclusion and discrimination prevented access to basic services and put many communities at risk.

292. The Executive Secretary stated that the third kind of imbalance pertained to ecological issues. The region was suffering from a mounting ecological burden that exceeded its ecological carrying capacity. Rapid economic growth and population expansion were exerting increasing pressure on natural resources and posed enormous challenges to economic and social progress. The Executive Secretary stressed that the challenge for the region's developing countries was to move away from the use of fossil fuels to less polluting sources of energy, while maintaining the growth and development that countries required.

293. The Executive Secretary noted that the fourth kind of imbalance was "empathy imbalance". It was observed that progress in Asia and the Pacific would have been even more impressive had it not been for the

"brakes" put on by bureaucracy. While sizeable sections of the bureaucracy were sensitive to the needs and aspirations of the marginalized and the disadvantaged, there were many who did not empathize with, or understand the struggles of common people to secure their entitlements and rights. The Executive Secretary pointed out that, if all those who delivered basic services could empathize with the common people and respond effectively, the delivery of basic services to the poor would improve dramatically, at almost zero marginal cost and with a seminal impact on the region's development.

294. The Executive Secretary highlighted the steps she had taken to strengthen the Commission since the beginning of her tenure. First, a more strategic and focused programme direction had been established to guide the delivery of ESCAP services to member States, including transforming the Commission into a key strategic regional player that could effectively support its member States in shaping a more balanced and integrated economic and social order. Second, the Executive Secretary stated that she had focused on developing strong and strategic partnerships with other regional players in Asia and the Pacific so that together they would create greater and more lasting impact. Third, the Executive Secretary pointed out that she had revitalized the role of the Regional Coordination Mechanism, which ESCAP chaired. That Mechanism was being transformed into a regional platform for system-wide coherence and partnerships in order to accelerate efforts to "Deliver as one" at the regional level. Fourth, the Executive Secretary noted that she was preparing ESCAP to serve as the regional platform for South-South cooperation and meaningful discussions on the transfer of technologies between countries in the region and between subregions.

295. In concluding, the Executive Secretary stated that ESCAP was well placed to lead and coordinate, with other United Nations regional entities, regional responses to the development challenges she had outlined, including the current financial turmoil. In that regard, she stressed that developing countries should engage in regional consultations to explore more flexible and more durable complementary arrangements and common measures on macroeconomic policy coordination and surveillance of regional financial markets and capital flows.

Sub-item (a)
Key challenges for inclusive and sustainable economic and social development since the sixty-third session of the Commission

296. The Commission had before it the report of the Executive Secretary on key challenges for inclusive and sustainable economic and social development since the sixty-third session of the Commission (E/ESCAP/64/35).

297. The Commission expressed appreciation of the role of the secretariat in supporting the socio-economic and sustainable development of countries in the region. It was recognized that ESCAP had been instrumental in advancing initiatives towards regional cooperation to address socio-economic challenges that the countries in the region faced.

298. The Commission noted with concern the adverse socio-economic impact of rising food and oil prices. Against the backdrop of soaring energy and food prices, the Commission recognized the importance of energy security and sustainable development. Small island members pointed out that the increase in oil prices had impacted the cost of transportation and the availability and price of food on islands where the population was scattered.

299. Several delegations noted the importance of technological development in improving energy efficiency and the use of alternative energy, especially renewable energy resources, to enhance energy security at the national and regional levels, and called for strengthening technology transfer through South-South and North-South cooperation.

300. Several delegations stressed the importance of mitigation and adaption to the impact of climate change, as recognized by the Bali Action Plan adopted at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in December 2007. Several delegations stressed the importance of adopting a comprehensive approach to respond to climate change, integrating energy security, natural resources management, environmental protection and food security in the formulation of their national development plans.

301. Some delegations expressed their commitment to implementing development strategies to support sustained economic growth that also protected the environment. That included the promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns. One delegation expressed its determination to pursue economic growth without exceeding the carbon dioxide emissions of developed countries. Several delegations announced their commitment to ensuring sustainable and inclusive development in agriculture and natural resources management and reaffirmed their commitment to prioritizing research and development in renewable energies. The importance of tools such as environmental impact assessments was also underscored, as was the need for integrated and environmentally sustainable policies in urban development planning. One delegation stressed that policies to attract private sector investment could enhance the impact of climate change abatement strategies.

302. Several delegations recognized the importance of regional and subregional cooperation as crucial for addressing climate change. Some delegations pointed out that environmental sustainability of Asian cities should be an important area of focus for ESCAP. Some delegations noted that, while carbon trading was very important at the global level, other important measures such as the transfer of sustainable renewable energy and

other environmentally sound technologies were equally useful. One delegation called for a pooling of resources for research and development and for best practices in alternative and clean energy.

303. Several delegations emphasized that South-South cooperation and public-private partnerships should be further promoted by ESCAP. The Commission noted the special challenges faced by the small island developing States owing to the impact of climate change, including rising sea levels and loss of biodiversity, which threatened peoples' livelihoods, and required that action be taken through enhanced regional cooperation.

304. Several delegations emphasized the importance of sound water resources management, especially in the provision of safe drinking water and basic sanitation and the implementation of integrated water resources management policies. Kazakhstan informed the Commission of its intention to create a Eurasian water centre, a large scientific and industrial enterprise that would work on the analysis of the ecological problems of water basins in the region. Turkey informed the Commission that it would host the seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Istanbul, from 3 to 14 November 2008 and the Fifth World Water Forum in Istanbul from 16 to 22 March 2009, both of which were aimed at sharing water management experiences. One delegation highlighted the importance of regional cooperation in the promotion of sustainable management and the equitable utilization and development of the Mekong water and water-related resources for the benefit and well-being of people in the Mekong river basin.

305. Several delegations highlighted the importance of disaster risk management for sustainable socio-economic development and the need to strengthen regional cooperation for the more effective management of natural disasters. One delegation underlined the severe impact of natural calamities, which compounded the effects of the dramatic increases in world prices of food grains, fuel and fertilizers.

306. The Commission observed that disasters could have a negative impact on sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and emphasized the importance of regional cooperation for disaster management. One delegation noted that adaptation to climate change constituted a demanding agenda for developing countries, and recommended that developed countries provide assistance through technology transfer and the provision of financial assistance to developing and least developed countries in order to assist them in adapting to the adverse effects of climate change.

307. The delegation of India informed the Commission that its country was willing, in principle, to support the proposed establishment of a $1 million fund under ESCAP for undertaking various policy studies for implementation of the Asia-Pacific sustainable energy security framework. The exact modalities of the fund could be worked out later.

308. Two delegations suggested that ESCAP, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including ADB, the United Nations agencies concerned and member States, should set up a regional oil fund to help oil-importing countries in dealing with balance of payment pressures. One delegation suggeted the establishment of a regional food bank to meet emergency food shortages. The same delegation also suggested the establishment of a regional climate fund to provide assistance for adaptation and mitigation measures to protect countries of the region against the impact of climate change and consequential natural disasters.

309. One delegation noted that ESCAP had constantly sought to provide a solid foundation for inclusive and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region. In that regard, the delegation noted the Ministerial Conference on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development, held in October 2007, which had adopted the Seoul Declaration. The Republic of Korea indicated its offer to host the Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Seoul in 2010. The delegation expected ESCAP to further enhance its contribution to the sustainable and inclusive development of member countries.

310. One delegation requested that ESCAP strengthen the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Energy Centre with technical and financial resources so that it could explore and suggest ways to increase regional trade in energy on a fast-track basis.

311. The delegation of Singapore informed the Commission that its country, with ESCAP as one of the strategic partners, would host the inaugural World Cities Summit in June 2008 to discuss the challenges of urbanization and sustainable development. In conjunction with the Summit, the East Asia Summit Conference on Livable Cities would also be held to exchange best practices and expertise in developing sustainable and ecologically friendly cities.

312. The Commission noted that transfer of technology and the sharing of best practices were crucial to boosting agricultural productivity, promoting alternative energy and improving energy efficiency. Asia and the Pacific had numerous local initiatives, particularly on the use of alternative sources of clean energy. The delegation suggested that ESCAP serve as an idea bank for such ideas and best practices. A pooling of resources for research and development on such best practices should offer concrete benefits for the region.

313. The Commission noted the development challenges that the Pacific island developing countries faced. Some delegations recognized the key role that ESCAP could play in the promotion of regional cooperation to assist Pacific island countries in meeting the challenges, including those faced in the pursuit of

sustainable development and economic growth. One delegation urged closer cooperation and partnerships between ESCAP and its member countries, including private enterprises in the Asia-Pacific region, in order to assist Pacific island member countries in addressing the challenges of climate change and sea level rise, energy security, food security and capacity constraints. The delegation emphasized that such cooperation, if effected through subregional institutions and other development partners, would be perceived as complementary. One delegation noted that it could not be overemphasized that the "P" in ESCAP needed a little more attention, given the risks and threats that were now being acutely felt by the rising cost of energy and the inability to cope because of inherent geographic and demographic dynamics.

314. Some delegations noted that the development of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks encouraged economic development and facilitated trade and tourism in the region. One delegation encouraged countries that had not yet done so to ratify the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network so that it could enter into force before the end of 2008.

315. The Islamic Republic of Iran offered to host the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport in 2010. The Islamic Republic of Iran called for increased regional cooperation towards establishing a regional mechanism under the auspices of ESCAP in an attempt to manage disasters through the exchange of data and information and to offer early warning services. In that regard, member countries were requested to support the proposal made by the Islamic Republic of Iran for the establishment of a centre for ICST-enabled disaster management for Asia and the Pacific.

316. While reemphasizing the importance of subregional organizations in paving the way towards sustainable development, one delegation urged enhanced cooperation between ESCAP and the Economic Cooperation Organization.

317. The Commission noted that the building of infrastructure was an important precondition for the development of the energy sector. In that connection, one delegation noted the importance of full and timely implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action. Some delegations welcomed the outcome of the Regional Preparatory Expert Group Meeting of the Euro-Asian Landlocked Developing Countries for the Midterm Review of the Almaty Programme of Action. One delegation expressed sincere appreciation to ESCAP and the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States for their sustained commitment in supporting the countries with special needs.

318. The Commission was informed of the achievements of APCICT in capacity-building activities and the support of the Republic of Korea to the Centre.

319. The Commission was informed that Japan appreciated the work of ESCAP in areas such as statistics, disability and the environment, and would continue to support the work of ESCAP in those areas, including the work related to the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action, through the Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund.

320. One delegation commended the technical capacity-building work of ESCAP in statistics, and the work of SIAP in particular. The delegation further expressed its strong support for the reestablishment of the Committee on Statistics in order to contribute to development in the region. The delegation noted with particular appreciation the work of the Commission in improving disability statistics.

321. The Commission recognized the leadership of the Executive Secretary in repositioning ESCAP to make it a more efficient and effective organization, in pursuing system-wide coherence and in enhancing coordination between ESCAP and other United Nations agencies. Some delegations called for further efforts to focus work on the comparative advantages of ESCAP. One delegation called for ESCAP to enhance its accountability by engaging in closer consultations with member States.

322. Some delegations expressed their support for the draft resolution on the conference structure (E/ESCAP/64/L.12/Rev.1). One delegation emphasized the importance of subregional cooperation for sustainable development and another delegation stated its interest in having a subregional office in its country.

Sub-item (b)
Economic and social survey of Asia and the Pacific 2008

323. The Commission had before it the document entitled "Summary of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2008: sustaining economic growth and rejuvenating agriculture for sharing prosperity" (E/ESCAP/64/36). The document took stock of the prevailing economic and social situation in the region and assessed the risks to the economy. It also provided an overview of the region's agricultural sector and possible ways to address the emerging food crisis in the region through the revival of the sector.

324. The Commission welcomed the fact that, amid rising risks, developing economies in Asia and the Pacific had recorded an impressive economic performance in 2007. It noted that, with sustained economic growth far above the global average, the region had become the locomotive for global growth. In referring to the findings of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2008*, the Commission noted that the region had entered a phase of heightened uncertainty, with a possible slowdown in the global economy, increased risks in international financial markets and relentlessly rising food and oil prices. While maintaining that macroeconomic stability should

be a priority in the current environment, several delegations emphasized that inflationary pressures from rising food and oil prices would pose a challenge to macroeconomic management. In that regard, one delegation called on the ESCAP secretariat to focus its coordination and policy advice activities on assisting ESCAP member countries to maintain sound macroeconomic fundamentals, promote robust microeconomic foundations and strengthen their capacity to weather external shocks. While acknowledging the role of sound economic policies at the macro level and reform at the micro level in fostering a favourable business climate one delegation emphasized the need for greater mobilization of domestic and foreign private financing and the opening of countries to the opportunities that the global economy offers in matters of trade and investment.

325. The Commission, while observing that the ESCAP region was still home to about two thirds of the world's poor, noted with concern that high and rising food and energy prices, if continued, could undermine the efforts by the region to reduce poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. It was pointed out that rising food prices and food shortages were inextricably linked, inter alia, with soaring oil prices, natural disasters and climate change. In that regard, some delegations emphasized the need to establish regional cooperation mechanisms, such as a regional oil fund to help oil-importing countries and a regional food bank to meet emergency food shortages.

326. Several delegations noted that one of the greatest challenges for most countries in the ESCAP region was how to sustain high level growth while at the same time translating the benefits of growth into tangible social development outcomes. In that regard, several delegations highlighted the findings of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2008* that agriculture could play a crucial role in achieving the objectives of poverty alleviation and inclusive growth. One delegation called upon the ESCAP secretariat to give priority to the emerging issue of food security, as the management of the food supply would be the most crucial challenge for policymakers in the coming year. Increasing agricultural productivity through investments in irrigation, rural roads and rural electricity, subsidized distribution of inputs to poor farmers, addressing the farm debt situation and technology transfer were identified as important measures to revitalize the sector. Some delegations informed the Commission of their activities in the area of developing rural transport as a means of improving access and poverty reduction.

Sub-item (c)
Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region

327. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/64/37, entitled "A future within reach: progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the Asian and Pacific region".

328. The High-level Panel on Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific was organized as part of the sixty-fourth session of the Commission. It drew attention to the challenges and opportunities for achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the region, in particular with reference to various gaps identified in the third regional report on the Millennium Development Goals, which had been launched during the Commission session. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP introduced agenda item 7 (c), "Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region". The Executive Secretary also served as the moderator of the panel. The Executive Secretary's introduction was followed by the presentations of five distinguished panellists who addressed a wide rage of issues and concerns central to the achievement of the Goals. The panellists were:

Mr. Chakravati Rangarajan, Chairman, Commission on AIDS in Asia

H.E. Ms. Meutia Farida Swasono, State Minister of Women's Empowerment, Government of Indonesia

H.E. Dr. Syeda Hameed, Member (Minister of State), Planning Commission, Government of India

H.E. Mr. Baatar Choisuren, Ambassador, Director General for Multilateral Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Mongolia

Mr. Yilmaz Akyuz, Financial Expert and former Director, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

329. The Executive Secretary delivered the keynote speech, in which she observed that achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 was the cornerstone of the region's development strategy, and that accelerating progress towards that achievement was a shared agenda. The midpoint to 2015 had been crossed and there was mixed news on the achievement of the Goals in the region. Good progress had been made in many years, although not so much in many others. Significant progress had been made in reducing income poverty, raising enrolment rates in primary and secondary schools and increasing the participation of women in the economy. Nevertheless some 641 million people in the region still lived below the poverty line, 97 million children below the age of five were underweight and another 4 million died every year before reaching the age of five. A quarter of a million women died every year during childbirth and as a result of pregnancy-related complications and 6 million people were living with HIV and AIDS in the region. Children, women, the disabled and other vulnerable groups were the most severely affected by hunger. Widespread gender discrimination was still being faced by women.

330. The Executive Secretary cautioned that the development gains made during the last decade or two could easily be reversed. In fact, there were real dangers that income poverty could surge if the current

high prices of food and energy were not addressed. The Executive Secretary referred to several gaps, including implementation and financing gaps, which were hindering the progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The Executive Secretary expressed her firm belief that the region had the creative energy, knowledge, skills and resources to overcome those challenges, and she invited the countries of the region to join her efforts in developing new and strong partnerships in achieving the Goals. The regional road map for the achievement of the Goals, which she had launched during the Commission session, provided a framework bringing together all concerned partners to forge stronger partnerships at the regional level on the shared agenda.

331. Dr. C. Rangarjan underscored the findings and recommendations of the Commission on AIDS in Asia and highlighted three broad findings of the work of the Commission. First, the existing global classification of low, concentrated and generalized epidemics did not reflect the situation in Asian countries. Dr. Rangarjan stressed that the current allocation of existing resources failed to focus on effective priority interventions, which could have an impact on the epidemic and reduce new infections. The Commission had recommended that an annual investment of just $0.30 per capita on focused prevention programmes could reverse the epidemic. Additionally, despite the significant household-level impact of AIDS, the Commission had found that impact mitigation programmes for affected persons were absent from most country-level responses in Asia.

332. H.E. Ms. Meutia Farida Swasono shared the views and experiences of Indonesia in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. With a population of about 220 million, Indonesia was a multi-ethnic and diverse country. The Goals had become an important reference point for the formulation of both the midterm national development plan 2004-2009 and the long-term national development plan 2005-2025. The country's gender mainstreaming strategy was one of the seven mainstreamed principles of the development process in Indonesia. The Minister reported on the progress that Indonesia had made thus far in achieving the Goals and informed the panel that several important Goals had either been achieved or were in the process of being achieved. She enumerated several measures for the poor, including health insurance, free education at the elementary and junior high school levels and direct financial support for the poor. The Minister stated that HIV/AIDS and environmental degradation were the biggest challenges for Indonesia. During the past four years, the rate of HIV transmission had increased significantly. The Government had launched a "go green" campaign. The Minister observed that one of the biggest challenges face by Indonesia was decentralization. Lack of capacity and weak coordination were some of the problems encountered in the decentralization process.

333. H.E. Dr. Syeda Hameed addressed the issue of engendering the national development plans and their role in achieving the Millennium Development Goals in a country such as India, with stark disparities and high maternal mortality rates. Dr. Hameed observed that human development was the only measure of development. The Goals highlighted the importance of human capabilities and rights both as an end as well as a means of development. Dr. Hameed informed the panel that India had just completed the preparation of its eleventh five-year plan. The plan had enshrined the vision of equitable, sustainable, inclusive, environment-friendly and gender-just growth. The Minister stated that India aspired to growth that recognized multiple vulnerabilities and multilayered discrimination and sought to address those through general as well as targeted measurers. One of the achievements of the eleventh five-year plan was that women were not relegated to a few pages in the document – the plan had become a gendered document. However, significant challenges remained in getting action on a plan, particularly in a country as vast and diverse as India. The country had its fair share of problems: high maternal mortality, malnutrition, poverty and hunger. The Minister pointed out that, despite all the challenges that the country faced, India had made considerable progress. Poverty had gone down to 27.5 per cent of the total population (2004-2005), net enrolment in school had risen to 96.3 per cent by 2004 and the infant mortality rate had fallen from 80 per 1,000 in 1990 to 56 in 2005.

334. H.E. Mr. Baatar Choisuren elaborated on the Millennium Development Goal-based national development strategy of Mongolia. The strategy had been formulated following extensive consultation and debate in the national parliament. The strategy had two phases: phase I covered the period from 2007 to 2015 and phase II covered the period from 2016 to 2021. Mongolia intended to fully achieve the Millennium Development Goals during phase I through intensive economic development.

335. In phase II, Mongolia would consolidate and create the foundation of a knowledge-based economy to produce an average annual economic growth rate of 12 per cent and to increase the per capita GDP to a minimum of $12,000 in order to reach the level of a middle-income country by 2021. The strategy took into consideration several of the country's development strengths and weaknesses. The successful implementation of the national development strategy was expected to lead to several outcomes, including halving poverty, attaining a high human development index, a high degree of family well-being and extensive physical infrastructure.

336. Mr. Yilmaz Akyuz discussed the current global financial architecture and the Millennium Development Goals. The global financial architecture was linked to the Goals in three ways: the provision of financing for the Goals; debt sustainability and the Goals; and financial instability and crises and their impact on the Goals. Mr. Akyuz stated that globally some $50 billion to $150 billion were needed per annum to achieve the

Goals. Since the Goals were "public goods", government interventions were needed at the national and global levels for the provision of financing for them. Multilateral financing was totally inadequate, as was bilateral aid. Therefore, new mechanisms were needed, including a United Nations trust fund based on global taxes on carbon emissions, currency transactions and voluntary contributions. Many developing countries could not service their debts and finance their efforts to achieve the Goals at the same time. Many developing countries also could not finance such efforts with new debt, without running into an unsustainable process of debt accumulation. Mr. Akyuz observed that financial "boom and bust" cycles were bad for the poor. Although safety nets were useful, the aim should be to prevent financial crises. The institutionalization of domestic and international policies, measures and instruments was necessary to prevent financial instability and protect the interests of the developing countries.

337. The Commission noted that there was strong support for the Millennium Development Goals and that many countries were working towards achieving the core time-bound goals of reducing poverty and hunger, improving health and education, combating major diseases and ensuring environmental sustainability. The importance of country ownership over the development process was emphasized by one delegation. Another delegation noted that it was supporting the Goals in the broad context of human security.

338. The Commission noted that the Asian and Pacific region had made significant progress towards achieving many of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in reducing extreme income poverty, achieving universal primary education and attaining gender equality in primary and secondary education. It also noted that the progress achieved so far had been highly uneven, with the region as a whole not making sufficient progress in reducing child malnutrition, child and infant mortality and maternal mortality and improving access to safe water and basic sanitation. One delegation informed the Commission that it had already achieved most of the Goals and had set more ambitious Millennium Development Goal-plus targets in its national development plans.

339. The Commission was informed of various measures taken by member States in promoting the Goals and protecting their disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. Some delegations recognized the importance of social safety net schemes for the achievement of the Goals and shared their experience in strengthening their services, in particular for older persons, persons with disabilities and those who were severely underserved. One delegation stated that its country had adopted a pro-poor strategy in its development plans and a strategy to expand job opportunities for women, especially educated women. Several delegations drew attention to increased investments in human capital through the provision of primary education and health care and the adoption of the scientific approach in formulating a comprehensive strategy for the Millennium Development Goals. Several delegations noted the achievement of gender parity in education. One delegation pointed out that setting targets for gender equality had improved its monitoring of Goal 3 and had enabled it to develop several indicators for monitoring progress in achieving the Goals, including at the local level.

340. The Commission noted that several countries had taken measures to incorporate the Goals into their national development strategies, plans and programmes. One delegation stated that it had introduced the publication of annual national reports on the progress it was making in achieving the Goals in its own country and expressed its appreciation for the secretariat's role in helping countries to improve their monitoring efforts through the training of statisticians.

341. The Commission expressed its concern that the current food and energy crisis threatened to reverse the progress achieved so far and posed a serious challenge to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. It underscored the need to promote food security and energy sustainability, including at the household level. One delegation informed the Commission that the natural calamities that it had faced recently had aggravated the food and energy crises in the country.

342. While appreciating many of the elements in the document, one delegation stated that it would be better to maintain focus on achieving the Millennium Development Goals by promoting equality of opportunity, as that was an important element of inclusive strategy for generating the kind of economic growth needed to achieve and sustain the Goals. The same delegation observed that the Goals were hardest to achieve in fragile States, where weak institutional capacities, poor governance, political instability and internal conflict made development hard to achieve.

343. Several delegations emphasized the importance of global partnerships and the need for strengthening regional and subregional cooperation, including increasing financial and technical support for developing countries. They highlighted the role of the secretariat in supporting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by providing technical assistance and facilitating the exchange of best practices between countries. One delegation observed the importance of removing artificial barriers impeding trade in the region, in support of the Goals.

344. One delegation expressed its satisfaction that the secretariat was further developing the regional Millennium Development Goal partnership and promoting "unity of action" among all agencies in the United Nations system. Another delegation noted with appreciation the regional partnership on the Goals between ESCAP, UNDP and ADB, as it provided a consolidated platform to support the achievements of the Goals. One delegation noted that, as part of its support for the Goals, it had sponsored resolutions on achieving the Goals in the ESCAP region in three

consecutive sessions of the Commission. The delegation requested that ESCAP further reinforce regional partnerships among United Nations entities at the regional level. Several delegations stated that the United Nations, particularly ESCAP, could play a pivotal role in assisting countries to achieve the Goals by 2015 by serving as a catalyst for regional and global partnerships and suggested that the current efforts of ESCAP and other international organizations towards the achievement of the Goals should be further strengthened. One delegation stated that it attached great importance to the efficient functioning of the Regional Coordination Mechanism under the leadership of the Executive Secretary, who had been mandated to strengthen regional partnerships.

345. Some delegations expressed their intention to strengthen their role in providing financial assistance for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the region.

346. The Commission adopted resolution 64/6 on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region.

347. The Commission also adopted resolution 64/7 on financing for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 in the ESCAP region.

Agenda item 8
Other matters

348. No other matter was discussed.

Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Commission

349. The report of the Commission on its sixty-fourth session was adopted unanimously on 30 April 2008.

Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION

A. Resolutions

Resolution 64/1

Restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission[25]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Recalling its resolutions 143 (XXX) of 5 April 1974, 210 (XXXVI) of 29 March 1980, 262 (XLIII) of 30 April 1987, 47/3 of 10 April 1991, 48/2 of 23 April 1992, 51/3 of 1 May 1995 and 53/1 of 30 April 1997 on the conference structure of the Commission,

Recalling also its resolution 58/1 of 22 May 2002 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, and in particular paragraph 7 thereof on the requirement for a review to be conducted at its sixty-third session,

Recalling further its resolution 61/1 of 18 May 2005 on the mid-term review concerning the functioning of the conference structure of the Commission,

Recalling its resolution 63/3 of 23 May 2007 on the review of the conference structure of the Commission, and in particular paragraph 1, in which the Commission decided to defer the review of the conference structure of the Commission, including its thematic and sectoral priorities and subsidiary structure, to its sixty-fourth session,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 61/266 of 16 May 2007 on multilingualism, in particular paragraphs 4, 7, 9 and 11 thereof, as applicable to the Commission,

Noting the Commission's unique role as the most representative body for the Asian and Pacific region and its comprehensive mandate as the main economic and social development centre of the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region,

Noting also the importance of further cooperation between the Commission and subregional organizations, and the need to achieve synergies and build effective partnerships,

Taking note of the report on the external evaluation of ESCAP: Key findings and proposals for action[26] as well as the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the inspection of results-based management practices at ESCAP,[27]

Also taking note of the evaluations and recommendations of members and associate members concerning the outcomes of sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary structures held under the conference structure,

Having considered the report on the implementation of Commission resolutions 58/1, 61/1 and 63/3,[28]

Commending the initiatives of the Executive Secretary in facilitating an effective process of consultation among members and associate members on a comprehensive and thorough review of the conference structure of the Commission,

Underlining that an effective conference structure requires a strengthened evaluation system, added transparency and enhanced communication with the member States,

1. *Decides* to revise its conference structure, with immediate effect, to conform to the pattern outlined in annex I to the present resolution;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take into account the revision of the intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission in the future programme of work and strategic framework of the organization;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, bearing in mind the goal of maximizing the impact of the United Nations in the field of economic and social development in the Asian and Pacific region, to reorganize the secretariat so as to enhance its capability to service the subsidiary structure of the Commission;

4. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to provide members and associate members with a preliminary assessment of the organizational and staffing implications of the revision of the intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission within the next six months;

5. *Commends* the secretariat on the implementation of the resolutions and rules establishing language arrangements for the official and working languages of the Commission and urges the Executive Secretary to continue efforts to monitor closely the strict implementation, as applicable to the Commission, of General Assembly resolution 61/266 of 16 May 2007;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to undertake systematic monitoring and evaluation of the conference structure and its link to the programme priorities of the Commission;

[25] See paras. 171 to 177 above.

[26] E/ESCAP/63/19.

[27] E/ESCAP/64/30.

[28] E/ESCAP/64/19.

7. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution, focusing in particular on whether the conference structure has served the purpose of improving efficiency and attracting higher and wider representation from members and associate members, which would serve as the basis for a midterm review of the functioning of the conference structure to be conducted during the sixty-seventh session;

8. *Decides* to conduct, at its sixty-ninth session, a review of its conference structure, including its subsidiary structure, taking into account the outcome of the midterm review referred to in paragraph 7 above, and requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session a report analysing the functioning of the conference structure in order to facilitate the review.

Fifth plenary meeting
30 April 2008

Annex I

Conference structure of the Commission

I. The Commission

1. The Commission shall meet annually, with each session comprising a senior officials segment followed by a ministerial segment, for up to a maximum of seven working days to discuss and decide on important issues pertaining to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in the region, decide on the recommendations of its subsidiary bodies and of the Executive Secretary, review and endorse the proposed strategic framework and programme of work, and take any other decisions required, in conformity with its terms of reference.

2. The sessions of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries and the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries shall be held for a maximum of one day, one each in alternate years, during the senior officials segment and shall have a status commensurate with the Committees of the Whole.

3. The Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ACPR) Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions convened prior to the Commission shall be reconstituted as the Working Group on Draft Resolutions during the senior officials segment and shall have a status commensurate with the Committees of the Whole.

4. The number of simultaneous meetings of the Committees of the Whole, including their commensurate bodies, held during the senior officials segment of the annual session of the Commission shall not exceed three.

5. Without prejudice to rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Commission, members of the Commission intending to submit draft resolutions to the Commission are strongly encouraged to submit them to the Executive Secretary at least one month prior to the commencement of the session of the Commission in order to allow sufficient time for review by members and associate members of the Commission.

II. Subsidiary structure

6. The subsidiary structure of the Commission shall consist of the following eight committees:

(a) Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development;

(b) Committee on Trade and Investment;

(c) Committee on Transport;

(d) Committee on Environment and Development;

(e) Committee on Information and Communications Technology;

(f) Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction;

(g) Committee on Social Development;

(h) Committee on Statistics.

7. The eight committees shall meet biennially, with four committees meeting each year, for a maximum duration of five days for each session.

8. Within their respective areas of purview, the committees shall:

(a) Review and analyse regional trends;

(b) Identify priorities and emerging issues and consult on regional approaches, taking into consideration subregional aspects;

(c) Promote regional dialogue, including its subregional synergies, and an exchange of experiences on policies and programmes;

(d) Consider common regional positions as inputs to global processes and promote regional follow-up to their outcomes;

(e) Propose issues for consideration by the Commission as possible resolutions;

(f) Monitor the implementation of Commission resolutions;

(g) Promote a collaborative approach to addressing the development challenges of the region, where appropriate, between Governments and civil society, the private sector and United Nations and other international institutions at the regional and subregional levels.

9. Further, within their respective areas of purview, the committees shall provide the secretariat, including its regional institutions, with guidance in reviewing the proposed strategic framework and programme of work.

10. The following areas shall be mainstreamed into the work of all committees:

(a) Implementation of the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) Poverty reduction and sustainable development;

(c) Gender equality;

(d) Priority needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

11. The specific issues to be addressed by each of the eight committees in carrying out the above functions are listed in annex II to the present resolution.

III. Ad hoc ministerial conferences and other intergovernmental meetings

12. Subject to the approval of the Commission, ad hoc ministerial conferences and other intergovernmental meetings may be organized on specific and cross-sectoral issues.

13. No more than six such ministerial conferences or other intergovernmental meetings may be held during a calendar year, and the total number of days shall not exceed twenty.

14. In those years when a ministerial conference or intergovernmental meeting is held covering issues normally discussed in a committee, the corresponding committee need not be convened.

IV. Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

15. The functions of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall be in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex III to the present resolution. The Advisory Committee shall advise the Executive Secretary on the provisional agenda for the sessions of the Commission and committees subsidiary to the Commission, bearing in mind the need to ensure a results-oriented and focused agenda that is aligned with the development priorities of member States, in accordance with paragraph 5 of the terms of reference of the Advisory Committee.

16. The Advisory Committee may, if necessary, establish its own working groups on consideration of specific issues.

17. The number of formal meetings of the Advisory Committee shall not exceed twelve per calendar year. Any additional meetings, formal or informal, will require the concurrence of the Advisory Committee and the Executive Secretary, and will not require documentation by the secretariat, unless otherwise requested on an exceptional basis by the Advisory Committee.

18. Should the need arise to seek the views of United Nations entities or other intergovernmental organizations on subjects of interest to the Advisory Committee, members of the Advisory Committee can, if consensus has been reached, request the secretariat to invite representatives of particular United Nations entities or other intergovernmental organizations to attend a subsequent session of the Advisory Committee.

V. Existing regional institutions under the auspices of the Commission

19. The following institutions under the auspices of the Commission shall continue to function as prescribed in their respective statutes and terms of reference:

(a) Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology;

(b) Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific;

(c) Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;

(d) United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery;

(e) Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development.

VI. General provisions

A. Rules of procedure

20. Unless otherwise specified by the Commission, the rules of procedure of the Commission, including those pertaining to the decision-making process, shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the committees.

B. Informal session

21. An informal session among the heads of delegations during the ministerial segment of each Commission session may be organized but shall not be institutionalized. The agenda for the informal session shall be decided by consensus and the annotated agenda shall reach members at least thirty days before the opening of the session to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the session. Simultaneous interpretation shall be provided.

Annex II

Issues to be addressed by the committees subsidiary to the Commission

1. Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development:

- Experiences and practices in formulating and implementing macroeconomic policies to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable and inclusive development
- Regional economic development policies and options, including in the area of financing for development

- Strategies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, with a special focus on poverty reduction
- Pro-poor economic growth for increasing the income and employment of the poor
- Progress towards graduation of the least developed countries through the mobilization of regional efforts to address poverty reduction and other identified concerns of countries with special needs[29]
- Policy options and programmes for reducing rural poverty, including those with a gender dimension, through the sustainable development of secondary crops

2. Committee on Trade and Investment:
   - Regional cooperative mechanisms and agreements in trade, investment and finance, including the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)
   - Policy options on trade and investment, enterprise development and finance
   - Policy options and strategies for sustainable economic growth and rural poverty reduction through agro-technology transfer and agro-based enterprise development
   - Technology transfer to address regional development challenges
3. Committee on Transport:
   - Transport policy options and programmes, including those targeting the Millennium Development Goals
   - The Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway and other initiatives promoted by the Commission for planning international intermodal transport linkages
   - Measures to improve road safety and the efficiency of transport operations and logistics
   - Support for the accession and implementation of international transport agreements
4. Committee on Environment and Development:
   - Integration of environmental sustainability in development policy
   - Policies and strategies for the use of sustainable planning and the use of water resources
   - Regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy resources
5. Committee on Information and Communications Technology:
   - Integration of ICT-related issues in development policies, plans and programmes
   - Transfer and application of ICT at the regional and subregional levels
   - Development of human and institutional capacity in the use of ICT
   - ICT applications for disaster risk reduction
6. Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction:
   - Policy options and strategies on multi-hazard disaster risk reduction and mitigation
   - Regional cooperation mechanisms for disaster risk management, including space and other technical support systems
   - Multi-hazard assessment, preparedness, early warning and response to disaster risks
7. Committee on Social Development:
   - Implementation of internationally agreed commitments, including those agreed at the United Nations on social development, population, ageing, disability, youth and disadvantaged groups, gender equality and health
   - Policy options, strategies and good practices in social policy and protection
   - Social policies and financing aimed at building inclusive societies
8. Committee on Statistics:
   - Tracking key socio-economic and environmental trends in the ESCAP region, especially progress towards the Millennium Development Goals
   - Identifying data requirements for economic, social and environmental analysis in accordance with internationally agreed standards and good practices

[29] The report of this Committee would be submitted to the Special Bodies on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries and on Pacific Island Developing Countries.

- Capacity-building for national statistical offices in the ESCAP region to produce, disseminate and analyse data in accordance with internationally agreed standards and good practices

Annex III

Terms of reference of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

The Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall have the following functions:

(a) To maintain close cooperation and consultation between the members and the secretariat of the Commission;

(b) To advise and assist the Executive Secretary in drawing up proposals for the strategic framework and programme of work, consistent with the guidance provided by the Commission;

(c) To receive on a regular basis information on the administrative and financial functioning of the Commission, and to assist and advise the Executive Secretary in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Commission's programme of work;

(d) To review the draft calendar of meetings prior to its submission to the Commission at its annual session;

(e) To advise the Executive Secretary on the provisional agenda for sessions of the Commission and committees subsidiary to the Commission, bearing in mind the need to ensure a results-oriented and focused agenda that is aligned with the development priorities of member States, as well as chapter II of its rules of procedure;

(f) To advise the Executive Secretary on the identification of emerging economic and social issues and other relevant issues for incorporation into the provisional agendas of the Commission sessions;

(g) To assist the secretariat in the formulation of the annotated provisional agenda for each session of the Commission before it is finalized;

(h) To carry out any other tasks to be entrusted to it by the Commission.

Resolution 64/2

Regional cooperation in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters in Asia and the Pacific [30]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing the significant role of natural disaster management in achieving sustainable development and poverty reduction,

Recognizing also that there is now a clear understanding that the Millenium Development Goals cannot be achieved without due consideration of disaster risk and that sustainable development cannot be achieved unless disaster risk reduction is mainstreamed into development policies, planning and implementation,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/219 of 22 December 1999, 56/195 of 21 December 2001 and 57/256 of 20 December 2002 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2001/35 of 26 July 2001, and taking into due consideration General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 57/150 of 16 December 2002 on strengthening the effectiveness and coordination of international urban search and rescue assistance, in which the Assembly, inter alia, encouraged the strengthening of cooperation among States at the regional and subregional levels in the field of disaster preparedness and response,

Recalling further the Hyogo Declaration[31] and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[32] adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005, which emphasized the need for strengthening and, when necessary, developing coordinated regional approaches and creating or upgrading regional policies, operational mechanisms, plans and communication systems, where appropiate, in order to prepare for and ensure rapid and effective disaster response in situations that exceed national capacities to cope with such situations,

Recalling the inclusion of a thematic cluster on "disaster management and vulnerability" in the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the cycle 2014/2015,[33]

Recognizing the urgent need to further develop and make effective use of scientific and technical knowledge to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters, and emphasizing the need to facilitate the access of developing countries to technology in order to improve their ability to tackle natural disasters,

[30] See paras. 113 to 121 above.

[31] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 1.

[32] Ibid., resolution 2.

[33] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 9* (E/2003/29), chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I, annex.

Expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of natural disasters in the Asian and Pacific region, and the increasing impact of such disasters in recent years, which have resulted in a massive loss of life and long-term social, economic and environmental impacts on vulnerable societies, in particular on developing countries,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,[34]

Recognizing that disaster risk reduction is a cross-cutting issue of great complexity, requiring understanding, knowledge, commitment and action, which should be addressed with the active participation of all stakeholders,

Recognizing also that continued cooperation and coordination among Governments, the entities of the United Nations system, other regional and international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other partners are essential in order to address the impact of natural disasters effectively, while emphasizing the need to avoid any potential duplication between the work of international organizations and other entities involved in the area of disaster information management within the Asian and Pacific region,

Recognizing further the importance of linking disaster risk management with the policies, plans and programmes of regional frameworks, as appropriate, in order to address issues of poverty reduction and sustainable development,

Noting the provisions of Beijing Action for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, adopted at the first Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Beijing from 27 to 29 September 2005, which, inter alia, stated that additional opportunities to facilitate its implementation and the monitoring of its accomplishments could be realized through collaboration, as applicable, with ESCAP as a regional mechanism,

Noting also the provisions of the Delhi Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, adopted by the second Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in New Delhi on 7 and 8 November 2007, which reaffirmed that the biennial Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which had started in Beijing in 2005, would be expanded as the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, with the participation of national Governments, regional and subregional organizations, United Nations agencies, international financial institutions and other stakeholders, including civil society organizations, scientific and technical organizations, the private sector and the media,

Noting further that the Government of Malaysia has expressed its willingness to host the third Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kuala Lumpur in December 2008 in order to promote more effective participation of countries and international organizations in the region in preparation for the second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, which is to be held in 2009,

1. *Urges* the countries of the region and international and regional organizations to implement the Delhi Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, adopted at the second Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in New Delhi on 7 and 8 November 2007;

2. *Encourages* countries in the Asian and Pacific region to host the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction once every two years on a rotational basis;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to strengthen the role and capacity of ESCAP in the area of disaster risk reduction;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to take effective measures:

(a) To facilitate, in cooperation with relevant United Nations entities, the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters[32] in the region and the recommendations of the first and second Asian ministerial conferences on disaster risk reduction, within the framework of the programme of work of ESCAP;

(b) To work closely with the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, in particular the regional office for Asia and the Pacific, in supporting the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in the region, including the organization of the biennial Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction;

(c) To report to the Commission at its sixty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Fifth plenary meeting
30 April 2008

Resolution 64/3

Promoting renewables for energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific [35]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[36] and General Assembly resolution 62/197 on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy,

[34] A/61/229 and Corr.1.

[35] See paras. 113 to 122 above. See also paras. 266 to 287.

[36] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum).

Taking note of the theme topic for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission, entitled "energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific",

Acknowledging various global initiatives to promote the visibility and deployment of renewables, including the International Conference for Renewable Energies, Bonn (2004), the Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference (2005) and the Washington International Renewable Energy Conference (2008),

Noting the offer of the Government of India to host the next International Renewable Energy Conference in early 2010,

Recognizing that energy is a key driver of economic and social development and that countries in the region have a sovereign right to choose an energy mix that is in line with their national priorities,

Mindful of the challenge presented by the unmet energy demand in many of the member countries in terms of the access, affordability and availability of energy,

Realizing the potential of various new and renewable energy technologies, i.e., solar, wind, biomass/biofuels, small hydro, geothermal, hydrogen and fuel cells for urban, industrial and rural applications through either grid-interactive or decentralized distributed generation options, with the added advantage of lower carbon footprints,

Recognizing that modalities for cooperation in the area of renewable energy technologies would be on a mutually agreed upon basis,

1. *Calls upon* all members and associate members, as appropriate:

(a) To cooperate proactively in the development of various renewable energy technologies through the sharing of policy and technological experiences;

(b) To encourage and participate actively in subregional, regional and intraregional initiatives in the areas of capacity-building, renewable energy demonstration projects and public-private partnerships so as to promote renewable energy technologies by improving their reliability through technical advances and their affordability by making them commercially viable;

(c) To closely involve developing countries in the development of new and renewable energy technologies, products and services that would eventually make their deployment cost-competitive;

(d) To encourage the rapid dissemination of existing new and renewable energy technologies to developing countries;

(e) To make their research institutions accessible to researchers and technologists from developing countries;

(f) To proactively facilitate, by working with intellectual property rights holders, the transfer of new and renewable energy technologies to developing countries by considering, on a voluntary basis, the reduction of technical and licensing costs;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To coordinate with the multilateral funding agencies with a view to enhancing financial and technology flows for the development and deployment of new and renewable energy technologies in developing countries;

(b) To facilitate synergies with regional groupings, such as the Economic Cooperation Organization, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Asia Cooperation Dialogue, the Eurasian Economic Community, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, to promote the development of renewable energy technologies proactively by establishing links with the Commission;

(c) To establish an institutional cooperation mechanism with the active engagement of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology and expert research institutions in the region so as to draw up a programme of cooperation by identifying activities on development, demonstration and capacity-building pertaining to various renewable energy technologies;

(d) To increase participation in public-private partnerships and initiatives that are designed to expand the use of renewable technologies through innovative policy options and practical measures, such as the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century, the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate, the International Biofuels Forum and the Global Bioenergy Partnership;

(e) To submit to the Commission at its sixty-seventh session a report on the progress made in implementing the present resolution.

Fifth plenary meeting
30 April 2008

Resolution 64/4

Implementation of the Seoul Declaration on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific [37]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing the increasing impact of globalization and the substantial growth in output, trade and investment being experienced by many countries in the Asian and Pacific region,

[37] See paras. 100 to 111 above.

Stressing the crucial role of economic and social infrastructure, including transport facilities and services, water, wastewater treatment, energy, power supply, telecommunications, education, health and welfare facilities in supporting development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing that inadequate infrastructure facilities and services have strong adverse effects on production and transaction costs and on levels of social and personal health and welfare, which are affecting development efforts and preventing the countries of the region from realizing their full development potential,

Realizing that, typically, infrastructure requirements are significantly larger than budget provisions and that innovative solutions are needed in order to raise financing for the development of infrastructure, improve the efficiency of infrastructure operations and create incentives to promote the maintenance of infrastructure,

Taking note of the Seoul Declaration on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, adopted by the Ministerial Conference on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Seoul from 2 to 4 October 2007,

Noting the strong support expressed at the Ministerial Conference for regional cooperation in meeting infrastructure development challenges,

Welcoming the offer made by the Government of Indonesia at the Ministerial Conference to organize the next biennial Ministerial Conference on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific in 2009,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[38] the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[39] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[40] and the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[41] all of which support and promote the concept of public-private partnerships in the development process,

Reiterating the importance of the ten universal principles of the United Nations Global Compact in the areas of human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption,

Convinced of the important role that multisectoral solutions, including public-private partnerships, can play in infrastructure development,

Realizing the need to address a number of issues of major concern to both the public and private sectors that impede the development of effective partnerships,

Recognizing the need to enhance or create an environment conducive to private sector participation in the provision of infrastructure facilities and services, including:

(a) Formulating a public-private partnership policy framework;

(b) Reforming legislative and regulatory regimes;

(c) Encouraging the member States to establish institutional mechanisms and partnership performance assessment tools to promote good governance of public-private partnerships;

(d) Enhancing the capacity of the public sector to implement public-private partnerships,

Convinced that the application of information and communications technology has considerable potential to improve the governance of public-private partnerships,

Recognizing that the standardization of terminology, contracts, processes and procedures reduces the transaction costs of public-private partnerships and is a prerequisite for the introduction of information and communications technology and e-governance initiatives,

Noting the significant progress made in certain countries that have facilitated and promoted public-private partnerships,

Commending the work of the United Nations regional commissions for their ongoing work in:

(a) Establishing a global public-private partnership alliance and corresponding networks at the regional and national levels;

(b) Developing training materials to support capacity-building for public officials;

(c) Assessing the readiness of countries for public-private partnerships and developing action plans to improve such readiness in participating countries;

(d) Creating Internet-based training and resource facilities,

Recognizing the important contribution that bilateral donors, international financial institutions and other organizations are making in order to assist countries to reach their full development potential in supporting economic growth, social development and poverty reduction through their public-private partnership endeavours,

[38] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[39] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[40] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap I, resolution 1, annex.

[41] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

1. *Urges* members and associate members, as appropriate, to consider:

(a) Placing high priority in national development agendas on infrastructure development;

(b) Recognizing that public-private partnerships can be an effective means to complement the efforts of Governments in developing and providing infrastructure facilities and services;

(c) Promoting the role of public-private partnerships in infrastructure development;

(d) Developing and implementing policies on public-private partnerships at the regional, subregional, national and subnational levels;

2. *Invites* members and associate members, as appropriate, to review and assess their:

(a) Public-private partnership, sectoral and other relevant policy frameworks and action plans for infrastructure development;

(b) Public-private partnership readiness and to identify key issues to be addressed by Governments in promoting the role of public-private partnerships in infrastructure development;

(c) Processes and procedures for implementing public-private partnerships, including effective management over their life cycle;

(d) Legislative, regulatory and institutional environments for public-private partnerships at the general and sectoral levels in order to identify any impediments to their effectiveness;

(e) Capacity to implement public-private partnerships and evaluate their impact on development;

3. *Encourages* members and associate members, as appropriate, to actively engage in regional cooperation initiatives, including:

(a) Participation in regional networking arrangements;

(b) Development and delivery of educational and training programmes;

(c) Development and sharing of databases on, inter alia, public-private partnership projects, statistics, laws, guidelines and model agreements;

(d) Standardization of terminology, contracts, processes and procedures related to public-private partnerships;

(e) Provision of technical assistance;

4. *Requests* United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies, international financial institutions and other organizations, bilateral donors and the relevant offices of the United Nations Secretariat to provide further technical assistance, to support national and regional capacity-building and to facilitate the sharing of experiences related to public-private partnerships in infrastructure development;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in close collaboration with donor countries and development partners:

(a) To assist members and associate members in meeting infrastructure development challenges through: (i) regional and interregional cooperation in the development of public-private partnerships; and (ii) the organization of meetings and regional networking arrangements aimed at promoting the exchange of experiences and information;

(b) To assist members and associate members on a mutually agreed basis in their capacity-building programmes, including public-private partnership policy framework formulation, legislative and regulatory reform and the administrative arrangements for public-private partnerships;

(c) To provide technical support, upon request, to help assess the public-private partnership readiness of members and associate members;

(d) To undertake a periodic review of the progress made in infrastructure development through public-private partnerships and to report to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Fifth plenary meeting
30 April 2008

Resolution 64/5

Establishment of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport [42]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Mindful of the increasing impact of globalization and the substantial growth of output, trade and investment being experienced by many countries in the Asian and Pacific region,

Stressing the crucial role of efficient, reliable and cost-effective transport services, including infrastructure, facilitation and logistics, in supporting continued growth through the improved competitiveness of exports and the reduced cost of imports,

Recognizing the need for the transport sector to respond rapidly and effectively to the demands being placed on it,

Noting the strong support expressed at the Ministerial Conference on Transport, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, in November 2006, for the establishment of a forum of Asian ministers of transport as a formal regional mechanism to facilitate close collaboration and more frequent interaction between members and associate members in order to address emerging issues,[43]

[42] See paras. 100 to 112 above.

[43] See E/ESCAP/63/13, para. 3.

Recalling its resolution 63/9 of 23 May 2007 on the implementation of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011), in which the Commission, inter alia, requested the Executive Secretary to undertake a detailed study on the establishment of a forum of Asian ministers of transport, including its organization and format, and to submit the findings to the Committee on Managing Globalization at its fourth session and to the Commission at its sixty-fourth session for their consideration,

Taking note of the support expressed for the establishment of the forum by the Committee on Managing Globalization, including the proposal that further discussion on the format and organization of the forum take place in conjunction with the discussion on the review of the conference structure of the Commission,[44]

Convinced that the forum would play a significant role in providing strategic guidance for the regional development of transport, transit and the improvement of transport capacity, including promoting cooperation, contributing to regional integration and enabling countries to benefit from globalization, thereby further supporting the growth of output, trade and investment in the region,

Noting the need to avoid duplication of work with existing international organizations, such as the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization,

1. *Decides* to establish the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport as a regional mechanism within the framework of the conference structure of the Commission;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To convene the first session of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport in 2009 and subsequently on a regular basis with the first session deciding its frequency;

(b) To coordinate the convening of the forum with the Committee on Transport;

(c) To ensure that a regional policy-oriented agenda is placed before the forum, addressing transport infrastructure, transit policy, facilitation, logistics, interregional and international transport linkages, financing and safety issues, as well as their economic, environmental and social sustainability;

(d) To encourage members and associate members to host sessions of the forum;

(e) To report to the Commission at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Fifth plenary meeting
30 April 2008

[44] See E/ESCAP/64/5, para. 50.

Resolution 64/6

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region[45]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolutions 62/1 of 12 April 2006 and 63/4 of 23 May 2007 on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region,

Taking note with appreciation of the report entitled "A future within reach: progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the Asian and Pacific region",[46]

Welcoming the three subregional forums on the Millennium Development Goals, which were held in Kathmandu in October 2006, in Hanoi in March 2007 and in Bishkek in July 2007, the outcomes of which have provided useful inputs to policy and implementation planning for the further strengthening of the Asian and Pacific regional road map,

Noting that the ESCAP secretariat has initiated discussions with existing regional partners and other United Nations entities to broaden the regional partnership in support of achieving the Millennium Development Goals, including through the Regional Coordination Mechanism,

Welcoming the efforts made by countries, especially developing countries, and the overall progress made in the region in achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Expressing its concern that a large number of countries are struggling to reach all the targets of the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing the importance of the regional partnership and of cooperation in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and also the necessity of assisting those countries in need in achieving the Goals, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and Pacific island developing countries,

Noting that 2008 marks the halfway point towards 2015, the target year for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts of countries in the region, especially the developing countries, that have made good progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, while remaining concerned that a large number of countries in the region continue to face major challenges, and emphasizes the need for concerted efforts in that regard in achieving the Goals by 2015;

2. *Encourages* countries in the region to make further efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015;

[45] See paras. 327 to 346 above.

[46] E/ESCAP/64/37.

3. *Expresses its appreciation* for the existing regional partnership on the Millennium Development Goals, which provides a consolidated regional platform to support the achievement of the Goals, as well as various activities undertaken through the partnership;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, within her mandate and in close coordination with member States and United Nations entities and multilateral financial institutions, to continue, among other things:

(a) To reinforce regional partnerships on the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) To assess progress towards achieving all Goals and targets in the ESCAP region and to transmit a progress assessment to the Economic and Social Council, in particular to its annual ministerial review, for its consideration;

(c) To assist countries in the region in achieving the Goals, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and Pacific island developing countries;

(d) To make further efforts to advocate the Goals in order to focus the attention of policymakers and other stakeholders;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session a sub-item entitled "Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region" under the agenda item "Policy issues for the ESCAP region", and requests the Executive Secretary to submit a report to the Commission at that session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Fifth plenary meeting
30 April 2008

Resolution 64/7

Financing for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 in the ESCAP region [47]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[48]

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 62/186 of 19 December 2007 on external debt and development: towards a durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries,

Recalling further the ministerial declaration of the 2007 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council adopted on 10 July 2007,[49]

Recalling its resolutions 62/1 of 12 April 2006 and 63/4 of 23 May 2007 on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region,

Having considered the report entitled "A future within reach: progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the Asian and Pacific region",[50]

Underlining that the quality and the effectiveness of development assistance is an important element in achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Underlining also the need for the harmonization and coordination of aid policies and actions among governments, donors, the United Nations and other development agencies,

Reiterating that, in the common pursuit of growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, a critical challenge is to ensure the necessary internal conditions for mobilizing domestic savings, both public and private, sustaining adequate levels of productive investment and increasing human capacity and, in this context, recognizing the crucial task of enhancing the efficiency, coherence and consistency of macroeconomic policies, an enabling domestic environment is vital for mobilizing domestic resources, increasing productivity, reducing capital flight, encouraging the private sector, and attracting and making effective use of international investment and assistance, while also recognizing that efforts at creating such an environment should be supported by the international community,

Emphasizing that debt sustainability is essential for underpinning growth, stressing the importance of debt sustainability to efforts to achieve national development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, inviting creditors and debtors to continue to use, where appropriate and on a case-by-case basis, mechanisms such as debt swaps to alleviate the debt burden of low- and middle-income developing countries with unsustainable debt burdens that are not eligible for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and taking note of the discussions of and assessment by the Paris Club on the proposal for debt-for-equity in Millennium Development Goal projects,

Reaffirming that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized,

Bearing in mind that the World Bank estimate of the additional foreign aid required to reach the Millennium Development Goals globally by 2015 is between 40 billion and 60 billion dollars per year,

Recognizing that challenges, such as rising food and energy prices, and global economic uncertainties, compounded by climate change, have the potential to decelerate global and developing countries'

[47] See paras. 327 to 347 above.

[48] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[49] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* and corrigendum (A/62/3 and Corr.1), chap. III, sect. C.

[50] E/ESCAP/64/37.

growth and undermine gains from poverty reduction efforts,

1. *Recognizes* that several modalities can be followed to ensure resource flows to achieve the Millennium Development Goals as outlined in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development[51] to the off-track countries, including those listed in the above-mentioned report on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region;

2. *Also recognizes* the role of official development assistance in contributing to financial, human and technical resources in developing countries;

3. *Urges* the developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product as official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product to least developed countries and encourages developing countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help achieve development goals and targets;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To explore the feasibility of establishing a regional Millennium Development Goal resource facility as referred to in the above-mentioned report;

(b) To contribute to the possible review of the Economic and Social Council's existing mechanisms by the Council and take action, where appropriate, to ensure the effective review and implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session a sub-item on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region and requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission on the implementation of the present resolution at that session.

Fifth plenary meeting
30 April 2008

Resolution 64/8

Regional implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific[52]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 61/8 of 18 May 2005 on the midpoint review of the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific,[53] in which the Commission called for the convening of a high-level intergovernmental meeting on the midpoint review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012,

Welcoming the adoption of Biwako Plus Five: Further Efforts towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific[54] at the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Midpoint Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012, held in Bangkok from 19 to 21 September 2007,

Recognizing that Biwako Plus Five, in drawing upon the findings of the five-year review, taking into consideration global developments and the emerging needs of countries in the region with regard to disability and the challenges to be overcome, will supplement the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action over the remaining five years of the Decade, from 2008 to 2012,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 62/127 of 18 December 2007 on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities, in which the Assembly urged relevant entities of the United Nations system, including agencies, funds and programmes, to take concrete measures to incorporate the perspective of persons with disabilities, including accessibility requirements, in development cooperation and development finance activities,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 61/106 of 13 December 2006, by which the Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[55] and the Optional Protocol thereto,[56] and 62/170 of 18 December 2007 on the Convention and the Optional Protocol,

Noting with appreciation the contributions of members and associate members of the Commission, donor agencies, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to the technical assistance trust fund for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012,

1. *Calls upon* all members and associate members:

(a) To develop and implement inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based policies on disability in line with the recommendations contained in the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action[53] and Biwako Plus Five;[54]

[51] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[52] See paras. 131 to 154 above.

[53] E/ESCAP/APDDP/4/Rev.1.

[54] E/ESCAP/APDDP(2)/2.

[55] General Assembly resolution 61/106, annex I.

[56] Ibid., annex II.

(b) To mainstream the perspective of persons with disabilities in development initiatives, including in efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals;

(c) To review the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five on a regular basis in preparation for the high-level intergovernmental meeting to be held in 2012;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To assist members and associate members in building their capacity to implement the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five in order to ensure that a rights-based approach to disability is incorporated into their policies and programmes;

(b) To promote coordination and collaboration among United Nations agencies and regional organizations in order to support member States in implementing the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five, and in incorporating the perspective of persons with disabilities in actions aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals and also, as appropriate, to assist States in becoming parties to and in implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;[55]

(c) To improve the accessibility of the facilities and services of ESCAP for persons with disabilities, in collaboration with United Nations agencies and organizations and disabled persons' organizations;

(d) To continue strengthening the partnership between ESCAP and the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability;

(e) To convene a high-level intergovernmental meeting to review the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five in 2012, the concluding year of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012;

(f) To submit to the Commission at its sixty-sixth session, including to the relevant committee, a report on the progress achieved in implementing the present resolution.

Fifth plenary meeting
30 April 2008

Resolution 64/9

Midpoint review of the implementation of the Plan of Action on Population and Poverty adopted at the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference[57]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling that 2007 marked the fifth anniversary of the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, held in Bangkok in 2002, and of the adoption of its Plan of Action on Population and Poverty;[58]

Noting that 2009 will mark the fifteenth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994, and of the adoption of its Programme of Action,[59]

Noting also that the Committee on Emerging Social Issues, at its third and fourth sessions,[60] requested that the secretariat convene, preferably in 2008, a midpoint review of the implementation of the Plan of Action on Population and Poverty,

Reaffirming the centrality of the United Nations Millennium Declaration[61] and the internationally agreed development goals,

Bearing in mind the goals and objectives related to population and development set at other major United Nations conferences and summits, including at their reviews,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[62] including the commitment to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action,[63]

Taking note also of the status report[64] on implementing the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development in Asia and the Pacific, which provided a regional perspective on the progress made towards achieving the goals of the Programme of Action,

Taking note further of the decision of the Commission on Population and Development that the special theme of its forty-second session, to be held in 2009, will be "The contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed

[57] See paras. 131 to 155 above.

[58] E/ESCAP/1271, annex I.

[59] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[60] See E/ESCAP/63/6 and E/ESCAP/64/13.

[61] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[62] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[63] *Review and Appraisal of the Progress Made in Achieving the Goals and Objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, The 2004 Report* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.XIII.8).

[64] *Implementing the ICPD Agenda: 10 Years into the Asia-Pacific Experience, A Status Report* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.II.F.46).

development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals",[65]

Recognizing the importance of understanding the interrelationships between population, development and poverty among national planners and policymakers and of building the capacity of government officials to integrate population issues into development planning in ways that reduce poverty, promote gender equality and empower women in attaining the Millennium Development Goals,

Noting that many countries in the Asian and Pacific region have witnessed a rapid decline in fertility and an increase in longevity, which have had far-reaching and profound effects on the age structure of the population, including population ageing, labour force shortages, increased old-age dependency ratios and high proportions of women among the elderly,

Noting also that, as a result of globalization and economic disparities, the mobility of people in the Asian and Pacific region has grown internally and internationally, impacting social and economic development in both countries of origin and destination,

Requests the Executive Secretary:

(a) To assist members and associate members in building their capacity to integrate population factors into development planning;

(b) To conduct analytical studies, compile and disseminate relevant demographic and population-related information and data with a view to identifying key demographic trends and emerging issues in the Asian and Pacific region;

(c) To convene an expert group meeting in 2008 to review the implementation of the Plan of Action on Population and Poverty[58] adopted at the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference;

(d) To submit a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission at its sixty-fifth session and a final report to the Commission at its sixty-eighth session.

Fifth plenary meeting
30 April 2008

Resolution 64/10

Review of the operational details of the feasibility study for the establishment of an Asian and Pacific centre for information, communications and space technology-enabled disaster management[66]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing the significant role of natural disaster management in achieving sustainable development and poverty reduction,

Recalling the Hyogo Declaration[67] and the Hyogo Framework for Action,[68] adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005, which emphasized the need for strengthening and, when necessary, developing coordinated regional approaches and creating or upgrading regional policies, operational mechanisms, plans and communication systems to prepare for and ensure rapid and effective disaster response in situations that exceed national coping capacities,

Recalling also the Declaration of Principles and the Geneva Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society,[69] which, inter alia, called for creating and promoting regional cooperation in the field of capacity-building by the United Nations and its specialized agencies and fostering effective international and regional cooperation among Governments, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders, including international financial institutions,

Recognizing the urgent need to further develop and make effective use of scientific and technical knowledge to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters, and emphasizing the need for developing countries to have access to technology so as to tackle natural disasters,

Expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of natural disasters in the Asian and Pacific region and their increasing impact in recent years, which has resulted in massive loss of life and long-term social, economic and environmental impacts on vulnerable societies, in particular in developing countries,

Recognizing that continued cooperation and coordination among Governments, the United Nations system, other regional and international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other partners are essential in order to address the impact of disasters effectively, while also emphasizing the need to avoid any potential duplication among the work of international organizations and other entities involved in the area of disaster information management within the Asian and Pacific region,

Recognizing also the importance of linking disaster risk management to regional frameworks, as appropriate, in order to address issues of poverty reduction and sustainable development,

Noting the offer made by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host an Asian and Pacific centre for information, communications and space technology-enabled disaster management,

[65] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 5* (E/2007/25), chap. I, sect. B, decision 2007/1.

[66] See paras. 124 to 129 above.

[67] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 1.

[68] Ibid., resolution 2.

[69] See A/C.2/59/3, annex.

Recalling its resolution 63/10 of 23 May 2007, in which the Commission, inter alia, requested the Executive Secretary to commission an independent feasibility study on the modalities for strengthening regional coordination and cooperation in natural disaster information management and early warning and to assess, in that regard, the viability of establishing a regional centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management in the Islamic Republic of Iran to enhance regional support for members and associate members in natural disaster prevention and mitigation,

Taking note of the document provided by the secretariat[70] containing an overview of the independent feasibility study requested by the Commission, in particular option 1, as suggested in the study,[71]

1. *Invites* the Islamic Republic of Iran to review the operational details of the proposal, to clarify the implications, if any, of such changes on the scope, functions and value added products and services to be offered, along with timelines for scheduling the introduction of those activities, and to submit them to the Commission at its sixty-fifth session;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to provide the Islamic Republic of Iran with technical assistance, if required, in the review of the operational details of the proposal.

Fifth plenary meeting
30 April 2008

B. Other decisions

Decision 64/1

Dates, venue and theme topic for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission[72]

At its fifth plenary meeting, on 30 April 2008, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific decided that its sixty-fifth session would be held in Bangkok in April/May of 2009, bearing in mind the celebration of two national holidays in Thailand in the first two weeks of April and a number of other national holidays in countries of the region at the end of April and in the first ten days of May, and that the theme topic for its sixty-fifth session would be: "sustainable agriculture and food security".

Decision 64/2

Deferment of consideration of the draft resolution on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Information, Communication and Space Technology-enabled Disaster Management[73]

At its fifth plenary meeting, on 30 April 2008, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific decided to defer consideration of the draft resolution sponsored by the Islamic Republic of Iran, entitled "Establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Information, Communication and Space Technology-enabled Disaster Management",[74] to its sixty-fifth session.

[70] E/ESCAP/64/9.

[71] Ibid., para. 40 (a).

[72] See paras. 260 to 265 above.

[73] See paras. 124 to 130 above.

[74] E/ESCAP/64/L.10.

Annex I

STATEMENT OF PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF ACTIONS AND PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION

1. The requests contained in the resolutions listed below will have no programme budget implications for the approved programme budget for 2008-2009:[a]

(a) Resolution 64/1: Restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission;

(b) Resolution 64/2: Regional cooperation in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters in Asia and the Pacific;

(c) Resolution 64/3: Promoting renewables for energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific;

(d) Resolution 64/4: Implementation of the Seoul Declaration on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific;

(e) Resolution 64/5: Establishment of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport;

(f) Resolution 64/6: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region;

(g) Resolution 64/7: Financing for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 in the ESCAP region;

(h) Resolution 64/8: Regional implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific;

(i) Resolution 64/9: Midpoint review of the implementation of the Plan of Action on Population and Poverty adopted at the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference;

(j) Resolution 64/10: Review of the operational details of the feasibility study for the establishment of an Asian and Pacific centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management.

2. Extrabudgetary resources, where appropriate, will be sought for the implementation of the activities required under the above-mentioned resolutions.

3. With respect to paragraph 2(a) of resolution 64/5, an additional output would need to be added to the programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009[b] to reflect the first session of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport in 2009.

[a] See General Assembly resolution 62/237 of 22 December 2007.

[b] Biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/61/6/Rev.1).

Annex II

MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Subsidiary body and officers		*Session*	*Document symbol of report* [a]
Committee on Poverty Reduction		Fourth session Bangkok 12-14 December 2007	E/ESCAP/64/1
Chairperson:	Ms. Lina Castro (Philippines)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Mr. Samaychanh Boupha (Lao People's Democratic Republic) Ms. Juliana Kubak (Papua New Guinea)		
Rapporteur:	Ms. Tserenkhand Bideriya (Mongolia)		
Committee on Managing Globalization, Part I		Fourth session Bangkok 12-14 September 2007	E/ESCAP/64/5
Chairperson:	H.E. Mr. Mao Thora (Cambodia)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Mr. Asianto Sinambela (Indonesia) Mr. Jiro Usui (Japan)		
Rapporteur:	Mr. Sudip Chaudhury (India)		
Committee on Managing Globalization, Part II		Fourth session Bangkok 19-21 November 2007	E/ESCAP/64/6
Chairperson:	Mr. Nikolay Pomoshchnikov (Russian Federation)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Mr. Uday Raj (India) Ms. Oyu Vasha (Mongolia)		
Rapporteur:	Mr. Adem Kahriman (Turkey)		
Committee on Emerging Social Issues		Fourth session Bangkok 26-28 November 2007	E/ESCAP/64/13
Chairperson:	Ms. Amaryllis Torres (Philippines)		
Vice-Chairperson:	Mr. Vinod Aggarwal (India)		
Rapporteur:	Ms. Oyu Vasha (Mongolia)		

[a] Copies of reports that are not available through normal distribution channels at United Nations Headquarters or at Geneva may be obtained from the Regional Commissions New York Office at United Nations Headquarters.

Subsidiary body and officers		*Session*	*Document symbol of report* [a]
Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries		Tenth session Bangkok 22-23 April 2008	E/ESCAP/64/17
Chairperson:	Honourable Frederick Fono (Solomon Islands)		
Vice-Chairperson:	Honourable Tuuu Anasi'i Leota (Samoa)		
Rapporteur:	Mr. Mack Kaminaga (Marshall Islands)		

Annex III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION AT ITS SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION

Document symbol	*Document title*	*Agenda item*
General series		
E/ESCAP/64/1	Report of the Committee on Poverty Reduction on its fourth session	2(a)
E/ESCAP/64/2	Summary of progress in the implementation of resolutions relating to the theme of poverty reduction	2(a)
E/ESCAP/64/3	Financing for development 2008	2(a)
E/ESCAP/64/4	Aid effectiveness	2(a)
E/ESCAP/64/5	Report of the Committee on Managing Globalization on its fourth session (Part I)	2(b)
E/ESCAP/64/6	Report of the Committee on Managing Globalization on its fourth session (Part II)	2(b)
E/ESCAP/64/7	Summary of progress in the implementation of resolutions relating to the theme of managing globalization	2(b)
E/ESCAP/64/8 and Corr.1	Latest developments relating to managing globalization	2(b)
E/ESCAP/64/9	Overview of the feasibility study on the modalities for strengthening regional coordination and cooperation in natural disaster information management and early warning and the viability of establishing a regional centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management in the Islamic Republic of Iran	2(b)
E/ESCAP/64/10	Asian and Pacific perspective on selected trade and investment issues to be addressed at the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	2(b)
E/ESCAP/64/11	Regional preparations for the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development	2(b)
E/ESCAP/64/12	Follow-up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2007	2(b)
E/ESCAP/64/13	Report of the Committee on Emerging Social Issues on its fourth session	2(c)
E/ESCAP/64/14	Summary of progress in the implementation of resolutions relating to emerging social issues	2(c)
E/ESCAP/64/15	Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS: an assessment of the progress made by ESCAP members: challenges and opportunities	2(c)
E/ESCAP/64/16	Follow-up to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and the Global Forum on International Migration and Development	2(c)
E/ESCAP/64/17	Report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries on its tenth session	2(d)
E/ESCAP/64/18	Emerging issues in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action	2(d)
E/ESCAP/64/19	Implementation of Commission resolutions 58/1, 61/1 and 63/3	3(a)

Document symbol	*Document title*	*Agenda item*
E/ESCAP/64/20	Programme performance report for the biennium 2006-2007	3(b)
E/ESCAP/64/21	Biennial evaluation report for 2006-2007	3(c)
E/ESCAP/64/22/Rev.1	Draft strategic framework for the biennium 2010-2011	3(d)
E/ESCAP/64/23 and Corr.1	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	3(f)
E/ESCAP/64/24 and Corr.1 and 2	Report of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	3(f)
E/ESCAP/64/25 and Corr.1	Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific	3(f)
E/ESCAP/64/26 and Corr.1	United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery	3(f)
E/ESCAP/64/27 and Corr.1	Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development	3(f)
E/ESCAP/64/28 and Corr.1	Comprehensive review of the work of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery	3(f)
E/ESCAP/64/29 and Corr.1	Performance review of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development	3(f)
E/ESCAP/64/30 and Corr.1	Office of Internal Oversight Services report on the inspection of results-based management practices at ESCAP	3(g)
E/ESCAP/64/31 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Corr.1	Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	3(h)
E/ESCAP/64/32	Overview of technical cooperation activities and extrabudgetary contributions	4
E/ESCAP/64/33	Dates, venue and theme topic for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission	5
E/ESCAP/64/34	Energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific	6
E/ESCAP/64/35	Report of the Executive Secretary on key challenges for inclusive and sustainable economic and social development since the sixty-third session of the Commission	7(a)
E/ESCAP/64/36	Summary of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2008*: Sustaining economic growth and rejuvenating agriculture for sharing prosperity	7(b)
E/ESCAP/64/37	A future within reach: progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the Asian and Pacific region	7(c)
E/ESCAP/64/38	Report of the Secretary-General on improving the effective and efficient delivery of the mandates of development-related activities and revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009	3(e)
Limited series		
E/ESCAP/64/L.1/Rev.2	Provisional agenda	1
E/ESCAP/64/L.2/Rev.2	Annotated provisional agenda	1
E/ESCAP/64/L.3 and addenda and Corr.1	Draft report	9
E/ESCAP/64/L.4 and Rev.1 and Add.1	Draft resolution: Regional cooperation in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters in Asia and the Pacific	2(b)

Document symbol	*Document title*	*Agenda item*
E/ESCAP/64/L.5 and Rev.1	Draft resolution: Midpoint review of the implementation of the Plan of Action on Population and Poverty adopted at the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference	2(c)
E/ESCAP/64/L.6 and Rev.1 and Add.1	Draft resolution: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ESCAP region	7(c)
E/ESCAP/64/L.7 and Rev.1 and Add.1	Draft resolution: Implementation of the Seoul Declaration on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific	2(b)
E/ESCAP/64/L.8 and Rev.1	Draft resolution: Regional implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action and Biwako Plus Five towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific	2(c)
E/ESCAP/64/L.9 and Rev.1 and Add.1	Draft resolution: Establishment of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport	2(b)
E/ESCAP/64/L.10	Draft resolution: Establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Information, Communication and Space Technology-enabled Disaster Management	2(b)
E/ESCAP/64/L.11 and Rev.1	Draft resolution: Financing for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 in the ESCAP region	7(c)
E/ESCAP/64/L.12 and Rev.1 and Add.1	Draft resolution: Restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission	3(a)
E/ESCAP/64/L.13 and Rev.1	Draft resolution: Promoting renewables for energy security and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific	2(b)
E/ESCAP/64/L.14 and Rev.1	Draft decision: Deferment of consideration of the draft resolution on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Information, Communication and Space Technology-enabled Disaster Management	2(b)
E/ESCAP/64/L.15 and Rev.2	Draft decision: Dates, venue and theme topic for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission	5
E/ESCAP/64/L.16	Draft resolution: Review of the operational details of the feasibility study for the establishment of an Asian and Pacific centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management	2(b)
Information series		
E/ESCAP/64/INF/1 and Corr.1	Report of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia	3(i)
E/ESCAP/64/INF/2 and Corr.1	Report of the Mekong River Commission	3(i)
E/ESCAP/64/INF/3 and Corr.1	Report of the Typhoon Committee	3(i)
E/ESCAP/64/INF/4 and Corr.1	Report of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones	3(i)
E/ESCAP/64/INF/5	List of participants	
E/ESCAP/64/INF/6	Outcome document of the Regional Preparatory Expert Meeting of Euro-Asian Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries for the Midterm Review of the Almaty Programme of Action, Bangkok, 22-23 April 2008	2(d)

Annex IV

LISTS OF PUBLICATIONS, MEETINGS AND ADVISORY SERVICES IN 2007/2008

A. List of publications *

Component: Executive direction and management

Enhancing Pacific Connectivity and *Enhancing Pacific Connectivity: Overview* (ST/ESCAP/2472) (E.08.II.F.14)

Subprogramme 1. Poverty and development

Access to Basic Services for the Poor: The Importance of Good Governance (ST/ESCAP/2438)

Asia-Pacific Development Journal, vol. 13, No. 2, December 2006 (ST/ESCAP/2432) (E.06.II.F.32); vol. 14, No. 1, June 2007 (ST/ESCAP/2459) (E.07.II.F.29)

Delivering as One: Asia-Pacific Regional MDG Road Map 2008-2015 (ST/ESCAP/2504) (E.08.II.F.15)

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2007: Surging Ahead in Uncertain Times (ST/ESCAP/2429) (E.07.II.F.4)

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2008: Sustaining Growth and Sharing Prosperity (ST/ESCAP/2476) (E.08.II.F.7)

A Future within Reach 2008: Regional Partnerships for the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/2501) (E.08.II.F.15)

Key Economic Developments and Prospects in the Asia-Pacific Region 2008 (ST/ESCAP/2461) (E.07.II.F.28)

Knowledge Management and Enabling Environments for Poverty Reduction: Guidelines on Scaling-up Good Practices (ST/ESCAP/2482)

Persistent and Emerging Issues in Rural Poverty Reduction (ST/ESCAP/2433)

Policy Guidelines on the Role of Governments in a Rights-Based Approach to Housing (ST/ESCAP/2486)

Socio-economic Policy Brief, No. 8, April 2007; No. 9, May 2007

Subprogramme 2. Statistics

Annual Core Indicators online database

Asia-Pacific in Figures 2006 (ST/ESCAP/2464) (E.07.II.F.32)

The Millennium Development Goals: Progress in Asia and the Pacific 2007 (ST/ESCAP/2465) (E.07.II.F.31)

Short-Term Indicators for Asia and the Pacific online database (4 issues)

SIAP Newsletter, No. 42, March 2007

SIAP Occasional Paper, No. 25, November 2007

Statistical Newsletter (9 issues)

Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2007 (ST/ESCAP/2475) (B.08.II.F.1)

Training Manual on Disability Statistics (ST/ESCAP/2499) (E.08.II.F.16)

Subprogramme 3. Development of Pacific island countries and territories

Improving Employment Opportunities in Pacific Island Developing Countries, Small Island Developing States Series No. 1 (ST/ESCAP/2480) (E.08.II.F.12)

Subprogramme 4. Trade and investment

Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Review, vol. 3, No. 1, June 2007 (ST/ESCAP/2456) (E.07.II.F.24); No. 2, December 2007 (S1/ESCAP/2470) (E.08.II.F.8)

Directory of Trade- and Investment-Related Organizations of Developing Countries and Areas in Asia and the Pacific, 13th edition

Future Trade Research Areas That Matter to Developing Country Policymakers, Studies in Trade and Investment No. 61 (ST/ESCAP/2467) (E.08.II.F.3)

Regional Approaches in Central Asia to Technical Barriers to Trade (ST/ESCAP/2490)

Role of Regional Cooperation: Business Sector Development and South-South Investment, Studies in Trade and Investment No. 63 (ST/ESCAP/2477) (E.08.II.F.6)

Towards Coherent Policy Frameworks: Understanding Trade and Investment Linkages, Studies in Trade and Investment No. 62 (ST/ESCAP/2469) (E.08.II.F.5)

Trade Facilitation Beyond the Multilateral Trade Negotiations: Regional Practices, Customs Valuation and Other Emerging Issues (ST/ESCAP/2466) (E.08.II.F.9)

Trade Statistics in Policymaking: A Handbook of Commonly Used Trade Indices and Indicators (ST/ESCAP/2491) (E.07.II.F.21)

* Where applicable, United Nations publication sales numbers are shown in parentheses and start with the letter "E".

Traders' Manual for Landlocked Countries: Kyrgyzstan (ST/ESCAP/2458)

Subprogramme 5. Transport and tourism

Asian Highway Route Map (2007)

Bali Declaration on Sustainable Tourism Development: Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in Asia and the Pacific, Phase II (2006-2012) and Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Tourism Development, ESCAP Tourism Review No. 26 (ST/ESCAP/2474)

Logistics Sector Developments: Planning Models for Enterprises and Logistics Clusters (ST/ESCAP/2457) (E.07.II.F.23)

Regional Shipping and Port Development: Container Traffic Forecast 2007 Update (ST/ESCAP/2484)

Review of Developments in Transport in Asia and the Pacific 2007 (ST/ESCAP/2485)

Study on the Role of Tourism in Socio-economic Development (ST/ESCAP/2478)

Towards a Harmonized Legal Regime on Transport Facilitation in the ESCAP Region: Guidelines (ST/ESCAP/2489)

Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific No. 76: *Gender and Transport* (ST/ESCAP/SER.E/76) (E.07.II.F.22)

Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific No. 77: *Container Transportation by Railway* (ST/ESCAP/SER.E/77) (E.08.II.F.10)

Subprogramme 6. Environment and sustainable development

Climate Change Action in Asia and the Pacific: Lessons Learned and Policy Implications – A Guide to Clean Development Mechanism Projects Related to Municipal Solid Waste Management (ST/ESCAP/2453) (E.08.II.F.2)

Eco-efficiency: A Practical Path to Sustainable Development – A Reference for Eco-efficiency Partnership in North-East Asia (ST/ESCAP/2455) (E.07.II.F.30)

Electricity and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific 2003-2005 (ST/ESCAP/2471)

Energy Security and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/2494) (E.08.II.F.13)

Green Business: The Greening of Business and the Environment as a Business Opportunity (ST/ESCAP/2473)

Guidelines on Integration of Water-Related Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation into Socio-economic Development Process (ST/ESCAP/2488)

Saving the Flagship Species of North-East Asia: Nature Conservation Strategy of NEASPEC (ST/ESCAP/2495) (E.07.II.F.25)

Sustainable Infrastructure in Asia: Overview and Proceedings – Seoul Initiative Policy Forum on Sustainable Infrastructure (Seoul, Republic of Korea, 6-8 September 2006) (ST/ESCAP/2448) (E.07.II.F.16)

Subprogramme 7. Information, communication and space technology

Developing Women's Entrepreneurship and e-Business in Green Cooperatives in the Asian and Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/2468)

E-Business Development Services for SMEs in Selected ASEAN Countries and Southern China (ST/ESCAP/2440) (E.07.II.F.8)

Framework for Regional Cooperation on Space Technology Supported Disaster Reduction Strategies in Asia and the Pacific: Study Report Prepared for the Meeting of Experts on Space Applications for Disaster Management, Chiang Mai, 25-28 July 2005

Integration of Information and Communication Technologies into National Development Plans for Central Asian States (ST/ESCAP/2502)

Internet Use for Business Development: An Introductory Set of Training Modules for Policymakers (ST/ESCAP/2503)

Policy Brief on ICT Applications in the Knowledge Economy, No. 3, December 2007

Policy Framework on Space Information Products and Services for Disaster Management: Study Report Synthesizing the Recommendations of the Meeting of Experts on Policy Framework on Space Information Products and Services for Disaster Management, Beijing, 17-19 November 2004

Public-Private Partnership and Community Participation on Applications of Space Technology for Socio-economic Development: Compilation of Policies and Practices in Selected ESCAP Member Countries

Space Technology Application Capabilities, Facilities and Activities in Asia and the Pacific: A Regional Inventory, 2007 (ST/ESCAP/2463)

Subprogramme 8. Social development, including persistent and emerging issues

2007 ESCAP Population Data Sheet

2008 ESCAP Population Data Sheet

Achieving the Health Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: Policies and Actions within Health Systems and Beyond (ST/ESCAP/2450) (E.07.II.F.19)

Asia-Pacific Population Journal, vol. 22, No. 1 (ST/ESCAP/2452) (E.07.II.F.99); vol. 22, No. 2 (ST/ESCAP/2462) (E.07.II.F.98); *20th Anniversary Special: 1986-2006 Complete Collection – Knowledge and Thinking on Population Issues in Asia-Pacific for Over 20 Years, Just a Click Away*; vol. 22, No. 3 (ST/ESCAP/2492) (E.07.II.F.97)

Biwako Millennium Framework towards an Inclusive, Barrier-Free and Rights-Based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific: Results-Oriented Monitoring Indicators – Sourcebook (ST/ESCAP/2479)

Developing Women's Entrepreneurship and e-Business in Green Cooperatives in the Asian and Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/2468)

Development of Health Systems in the Context of Enhancing Economic Growth towards Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/2449)

E-Health in Asia and the Pacific: Challenges and Opportunities

Gender Assessment of Selected e-Business and Strategies in Asia: The Case Studies of Malaysia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Thailand, Gender and Development Discussion Paper Series No. 19 (E.07.II.F.10)

Health without Borders: Improving Health and Reducing HIV/AIDS Vulnerability among Long-Distance Road Transport Workers through a Multisectoral Approach (ST/ESCAP/2442) (E.07.II.F.7)

The Macao Outcome Document of the High-Level Meeting on the Regional Review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (Macao, China, 9-11 October 2007)

Medical Travel in Asia and the Pacific: Challenges and Opportunities

Perspectives on Gender and Migration (ST/ESCAP/2460) (E.07.II.F.26)

Population Headliners, No. 317, March-April 2007; No. 318, May-June 2007; No. 319, July-August 2007; No. 320, September-October 2007; No. 321, November-December 2007

Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Asia-Pacific: Linking the Millennium Development Goals with the CEDAW and Beijing Indicators, Gender and Development Discussion Paper Series No. 20 (ST/ESCAP/2481)

Report on the Regional Survey on Ageing (2005) (ST/ESCAP/2487)

Strengthening Life Skills for Positive Youth Health Behaviour

A Tool Kit for: Building Capacity for Community-Based Treatment and Continuing Care of Young Drug Users in the Greater Mekong Subregion (ST/ESCAP/2444) (E.07.11.F.20)

Understanding Youth Issues in Selected Countries in the Asian and Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/2483)

B. List of meetings

Component: Executive direction and management

Advisory Council Meeting of the ESCAP Tsunami Regional Trust Fund, Bangkok, June and December 2007

Consultation Meeting of the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Executive Secretary of ESCAP with Pacific Island Leaders, Noumea, New Caledonia, March 2008

Consultative Meeting among Executive Heads of Subregional Organizations and ESCAP, Eleventh Meeting, Almaty, Kazakhstan, May 2007

Consultative Meeting of Executive Heads of Subregional Organizations and ESCAP, twelfth session, Noumea, New Caledonia, March 2008

ESCAP/ECE Conference on Central Asia and Europe: A New Economic Partnership for the 21st Century, Berlin, November 2007

ESCAP/Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States/ Economic Commission for Europe Regional Preparatory Expert Meeting of Asian Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries for the Mid-term Review of the Almaty Programme of Action, Bangkok, April 2008

South-South Cooperation for Tsunami and Other Disaster Risk Management: Regional Consultation, Bangkok, June 2007; Annual Consultation Meeting, Jakarta, November 2007

SPECA Governing Council, second session, Berlin, November 2007

Working Group on Least Developed, Landlocked and Pacific Island Developing Countries, Bangkok, October 2007 and April 2008

Subprogramme 1. Poverty and development

Eleventh Regional Consultative Meeting on Good Urban Governance, Manila, November 2007

Expert Group Meeting on Current and Prospective Economic and Social Performance in the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, November 2007

Expert Group Meeting on Development Issues and Policies, Bangkok, November 2007

Expert Group Meeting on Emerging Issues in Rural Poverty Reduction: The Role of Participatory Approaches, Bangkok, November 2007

Follow-up Workshop in the Philippines on Pro-poor Water and Wastewater Management, Manila, November 2007

High-Level Regional MDG Forum in North and Central Asia, Bishkek, July 2007

Inter-agency Expert Consultation on MDG III Report, Bangkok, January 2008

Meeting of Country Reporters on the State of Pro-poor Housing Finance, New Delhi, January-February 2008

National Seminar on the State of Income and Employment Generation Programmes, Almaty, Kazakhstan, October 2007; Baku, October 2007; Tashkent, October 2007

National Workshops on Capacity-Building for Development of Bond Markets in Mongolia and Sri Lanka, Ulaanbaatar, June 2007; Colombo, November 2007

National Workshop on Pro-poor Water and Wastewater Management, Manila, September 2007.

National Workshop on Proven Approaches to Housing the Urban Poor, Pokhara, Nepal, May-June 2007

Regional Policy Dialogue on Pro-poor Housing Finance, New Delhi, January 2008

Regional Seminar and Study Visit on Community-Based Solid Waste Management, Quy Nhon City, Viet Nam, December 2007

Subregional Seminar-cum-Study Tour on Adaptation of the Model System of Participatory Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation of Programmes for Income and Employment Generation: Experience of Thailand: Bangkok, November 2007; Chiang Mai, Thailand, November 2007

Regional Seminar on Definitions and Measurement of Urban Poverty, Bangkok, November 2007

Technical Committee and Governing Council of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific, fourth session, Bogor, Indonesia, February 2008

Workshop on Issues and Messages for the Third Regional MDG Report: A Path to 2015, Bangkok, October 2007

Wrap-up Workshop – Poverty Reduction through Rural-Urban Linkages of Secondary Towns in Least Developed Countries, Bangkok, December 2007

Subprogramme 2. Statistics

Area Focused Training Course in Collection and Analysis of Official Economic Statistics for Central Asian Countries, Chiba, Japan, July-September 2007

Country Course on Census of Agriculture, Ulaanbaatar, December 2007

Country Course on Designing Training for Government Statisticians of National Statistical Office of Thailand in Light of MDG Concepts and Indicators, Bangkok, May 2007

Country Course on Small Area Estimation, Colombo, December 2007

Country Course on Statistical Capability for MDGs: Tarawa, Kiribati, June 2007; Islamabad, June 2007

Country Course on Use of Statistical Matching to Link Poverty, Informal Employment and MDG Indicators, Bangkok, June-July 2007

Distance Learning Training Course on Introduction to the System of National Accounts for the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam, February 2008

Expert Group Meeting on Effective Use of IT in Population Censuses, Bangkok, December 2007

Governing Council of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, third session, Bangkok, November 2007

International Conference on the Millennium Development Goals Statistics, Manila, October 2007

National Workshops on Statistical Literacy for Policy Management for MDGs in Cambodia, Phnom Penh, Krati, Sihanouk, Battambang and Siem Reap, Cambodia, June-August 2007

Regional Workshop on Promoting Disability Data Collection through the 2010 Population and Housing Censuses, Bangkok, April 2008

Sixth Management Seminar for the Heads of National Statistical Offices in Asia and the Pacific, Hong Kong, China, May 2007

Sixth Research-Based Regional Course, Daejeon, Republic of Korea, July-August 2007

Subregional Course on Labour Force and Manpower Projections, Hong Kong, China, April 2008

Subregional Workshop on Census Cartography and Management, Bangkok, October 2007

Third Group Training Course in Analysis, Interpretation and Dissemination of Official Statistics, Chiba, Japan, July-September 2007

Third Group Training Course in Application of Information and Communications Technology to Production and Dissemination of Official Statistics, Chiba, Japan, May-July 2007

Third Group Training Course in Modules on Fundamental Official Statistics, Chiba, Japan, October 2007-March 2008

Third Regional Course/Workshop on Statistical Quality Management and Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, Beijing, October 2007

Third Workshop on Forging Partnerships in Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, November 2007

Thirteenth Course/Workshop on Sample Design for Household and Establishment/Enterprise Surveys, Tehran, April-May 2008

Training on Documentation and Archiving for Census and Survey Microdata, Bangkok, November 2007

UNCTAD/APCICT/SIAP Training Course on the Production of Statistics on the Information Economy, Incheon, Republic of Korea, February 2008

Workshop on Informal Employment and Informal Sector Data Collection: Strategy, Tools and Advocacy, Bangkok, September 2007

Workshop on Integrated Economic Statistics and Informal Sector for ECO Member Countries, Tehran, November 2007

Subprogramme 3. Development of Pacific island countries and territories

EPOC Working Group of the Advisory Council, third session, Suva, November 2007

ESCAP/ILO Joint Expert Group Meeting on Labour Markets in Pacific Small Island Developing States, Suva, June 2007

ESCAP/South Pacific Tourism Organization Workshop on Expanding the Role of Tourism in Poverty Reduction, Nuku'alofa, October 2007

ESCAP/UNDP Millennium Development Goal Subregional Workshop for Melanesian Countries, Honiara, November 2007

Expert Group Meeting on Mauritius Strategy Implementation in Pacific Small Island Developing States, Suva, June 2007

Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries, tenth session, Bangkok, April 2008

Subprogramme 4. Trade and investment

ARTNeT Consultative Meeting on Trade and Investment Policy Coordination, Bangkok, July 2007

Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2007, Almaty, Kazakhstan, May 2007

Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2008, Bangkok, April 2008

Expert Group Meeting on Policy Coherence for Managing Globalization, Bangkok, September 2007

Expert Group Meeting on Promoting Trade between Asian Subregions, Kunming, China, August 2007

High-Level Consultation on Trade in Services for Regional Integration, Macao, China, February 2008

High-Level Expert Meeting on Reducing Poverty by Promoting Industrial Development through Trade Facilitation, Vientiane, December 2007

Multi-stakeholder Steering Committee Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT), Macao, China, December 2007

National Awareness Building Workshops on Accession to the World Trade Organization, Thimphu, June 2007; Phuentsholing, Bhutan, June 2007

Research Workshop on Emerging Trade Issues for Developing Countries in the Asia-Pacific Region, Macao, China, December 2007

Seminar on Turmoil on Global Financial Markets: Will It Be Contagious to Asia?, Bangkok, October 2007

Seventh Meeting of the ESCAP Business Advisory Council, Bangkok, April 2008

Sixth Meeting of the ESCAP Business Advisory Council, Almaty, Kazakhstan, May 2007

Standing Committee of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement, twenty-sixth session, Bangkok, May 2007; twenty-seventh session, Goa, India, October 2007; twenty-eighth session, Colombo, March 2008

Study Tour by Members of the Bhutan-WTO Negotiating Team: to Phnom Penh, July 2007; to Kuala Lumpur, July 2007; to Hanoi, July 2007

Technical Committee and Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery, third session, Beijing, November 2007

UNCTAD XII Pre-event on Aid for Trade and Development: Towards a New Global Solidarity Initiative, Bangkok, January 2008

UNECE/ESCAP Seminar on an Integrated Approach to Trade Facilitation and Public-Private Partnerships in Central Asia, Almaty, Kazakhstan, June 2007

UNECE/ESCAP Workshop on United Nations Electronic Documents (UNeDocs) for Single Window Facilities in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, December 2007

WIPO/ESCAP High-Level Forum on Intellectual Property Rights and Trade, Macao, China, July 2007

Workshop on Integration of Greater Mekong Subregion SMEs into International and Regional Markets: Trade and Investment Facilitation, Chiang Rai, Thailand, August 2007

Workshop on the Collection of Information on Non-tariff Barriers Facing Importers and Exporters in Thailand, Bangkok, January 2008

WTO/ESCAP Advanced Regional Seminar for ESCAP Economies on Multilateral Negotiations under the GATS, Manila, October 2007

WTO/ESCAP High-Level Asia-Pacific Regional Consultations on the Doha Development Agenda Negotiation Issues, Bali, Indonesia, September 2007

WTO/ESCAP Regional Seminar on Agriculture Negotiations for Asia-Pacific Economies, Bangkok, November 2007

WTO/ESCAP Regional Workshop on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health for the Asia-Pacific Region, Macao, China, July 2007

Subprogramme 5. Transport and tourism

Asian Highway Investment Forum, Bangkok, November 2007

Asia-Pacific Business Forum and Ministerial Conference on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development, Seoul, October 2007

ESCAP Meeting of Executives of National Freight Forwarders and Logistics Associations, Bangkok, June 2007

ESCAP Regional Forum of Freight Forwarders, Multimodal Transport Operators and Logistics Service Providers, Bangkok, June 2007

ESCAP/UNESCO Training of Trainers Workshops on Cultural Tourism Sites Management and Guiding, Hoi An, Viet Nam, July 2007; Bangkok, July-August 2007; Champasak, Lao People's Democratic Republic, October 2007; Siem Reap, Cambodia, January 2008

Expert Group Meeting on Enhancing the Role of Tourism in Socio-economic Development and Poverty Reduction, Bangkok, October 2007

Expert Group Meeting on Improving Road Safety on the Asian Highway, Bangkok, June 2007

Expert Group Meeting on Sustainable Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, June 2007

Final Seminar of the Interregional Linkages Project: Best Practices and Lessons Learned, Abu Dhabi, October 2007

Follow-up Training of Trainers Workshop on Freight Forwarding and Multimodal Transport, Phnom Penh, January 2008

Foundation Course on Freight Forwarding and Multimodal Transport, Port Klang, Malaysia, September 2007

Fourteenth Meeting of the APETIT Executive Committee, Singapore, June 2007

Fourth ESCAP/UNCTAD Meeting on Capacity-Building in Trade and Transport Facilitation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand, Bangkok, November 2007

High-Level Expert Group Meeting on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development, Seoul, October 2007

Interregional Seminar on the Economic Assessment of International Linkages and on Transport Facilitation among ECA, ECE, ESCAP and ESCWA, Cairo, June 2007

National Workshop and Advisory Services on the Facilitation of Interregional Transport along Euro-Asian Transport Linkages, Islamabad, August 2007; Tehran, October 2007

National Workshop on Intermodal Transport Planning, Ulaanbaatar, September 2007; Vientiane, November 2007

National Workshop on Training of Trainers in Multimodal Transport and Logistics, Colombo, July 2007; Port Klang, Malaysia, September 2007

Regional Workshop on Upgrading of the Asian Highway Priority Routes, Bangkok, June 2007

Seminar on Facilitation of International Road Transport, Urumqi, China, August 2007

Sixth Negotiating Meeting on the Agreement between the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States on Facilitation of International Road Transport, Bishkek, July 2007; Seventh Meeting, Beijing, December 2007

SPECA Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing, thirteenth session, Almaty, Kazakhstan, March 2008

Subregional Workshop for ASEAN on the Development of Intermodal Interfaces, Bangkok, August 2007

Subregional Workshop on the Development of Intermodal Interfaces: for Countries of South Asia, New Delhi, December 2007; for Countries of the Caucasus Region, Central Asia, and Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey, Tehran, February 2008

Subregional Workshops on Identifying Investment Needs and Development Priorities for the Trans-Asian Railway Network: for Countries of South Asia, New Delhi, December 2007; for Countries of the Caucasus Region, Central Asia, and Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey, Tehran, February 2008

Working Group on the Asian Highway, Second Meeting, Bangkok, November 2007

Workshop on Expanding the Role of Tourism in Poverty Reduction, Nuku'alofa, October 2007

Subprogramme 6. Environment and sustainable development

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Sustainable Development Indicators for the Power Sector, Bangkok, July 2007

Capacity-Building Seminar on Environment Mainstreaming Using the Application of Green Growth Policy Tools in Sustainable Development Decision-Making, Bangkok, January 2008

Capacity-Building Seminar on the Development and Application of Green Growth Policy Tools, Sihanoukville, Cambodia, October 2007

Capacity-Building Seminar on the Integration of Green Growth Policy Tools in the Decision-Making Process for Sustainable Development in the SPECA Countries, Astana, September 2007

ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee, fortieth session, Macao, China, November 2007

ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee Integrated Workshop on Socio-economic Impacts of Extreme Typhoon-related Events, Bangkok, September 2007

Expert Group Meeting on Sustainable Energy Security and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, November 2007

Expert Group Meeting on Sustainable Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, June 2007

Expert Group Meeting on the Future Programme of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation, Ulaanbaatar, March 2008

Fifth Disaster Management Practitioners Workshop, Phnom Penh, April 2008

High-Level Meeting on Fostering a Mutually Supportive Trade and Environment Regime: Perspectives and Lessons Learned at Regional Level, Geneva, November 2007

International Conference on Happiness and Public Policy, Bangkok, July 2007

Kick-off Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Gateway to Climate and Development, Bangkok, April 2008

Kitakyushu Initiative Network, Fourth Meeting, Kitakyushu City, Japan, June 2007

Leadership Workshop on Integrated Water Resources Management, Seoul, September 2007

National Consultative Workshop on the Kitakyushu Initiative Demonstration Project in Bago City, Philippines: Solid Waste Management as a Social Enterprise, Bago City, Philippines, April 2008

National Training on Tools and Application of Green Growth, Hanoi, November 2007

Policymakers Forum: Economic Policy and Financial Innovation for Investment in Forest Environmental Services, Bangkok, May 2007

Regional Implementation Meeting for Asia and the Pacific for the Sixteenth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, Jakarta, November 2007

Regional Perspectives on Addressing Climate Change, at the Thirteenth United Nations Climate Change Conference, Bali, Indonesia, December 2007

Regional Workshop on a Clean Development Mechanism and Urban Air Pollution, Bangkok, December 2007

Regional Workshop on Monitoring of Investment and Results of Water Resources Management, Kuala Lumpur, October 2007

Second Expert Group Meeting on Eco-efficiency Indicators, Bangkok, April 2008

Second Policy Consultation Forum of the Seoul Initiative on Green Growth: Application of Economic Instruments for Green Growth, Bangkok, September 2007

Second Seoul Initiative Leadership Programme on Green Growth, Incheon, Republic of Korea, October 2007

Senior Officials Committee on Energy Cooperation in North-East Asia, third session, Jeju, Republic of Korea, December 2007

Session on Monitoring of Investment and Results in Water and Regional Launch of the International Year of Sanitation 2008, at the Asia-Pacific Water Summit, Beppu, Japan, December 2007

Seventeenth Asia-Pacific Seminar on Climate Change: Good Governance for Climate and Development Co-Benefits Innovation and Integrated Adaptation to Climate Change, Bangkok, July-August 2007

Third Regional Policy Dialogue: The Greening of Business and the Environment as a Business Opportunity – Exploring the Hidden Potential for Innovation and Business Change, Bangkok, June 2007

Thirteenth Senior Officials Meeting of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation, Ulaanbaatar, March 2008

Towards the Development of a Trans-Asian Energy System: Inception Meeting, Seoul, August 2007

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change/ESCAP Workshop on Best Practices on Conducting Technology Needs Assessments, Bangkok, June 2007

Working Group on Energy Planning and Policy, third session, Chiang Mai, Thailand, June 2007; fourth session, Irkutsk, Russian Federation, September 2007

Workshop on Business Models and Financial Frameworks to Scale Up Responses to Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development, Seoul, July 2007

Workshop on Energy for Sustainable Development in Central Asia: Developing Strategies for the Coordinated SPECA Energy System and the Baku Initiative on Energy Efficiency, Bishkek, November 2007

Workshop on the International Year of Sanitation 2008, Bangkok, March 2008

Subprogramme 7. Information, communication and space technology

Community Needs Assessment Workshop on Empowering Rural Areas through Community e-Centres, Nobding, Bhutan, September 2007; Kathmandu, November 2007

Consultative Meeting for the Establishment of a Regional Knowledge Network of Rural Women Cooperatives, Bangkok, August 2007

Consultative Meeting for the Establishment of Regional Knowledge Network of Telecentres in Asia-Pacific, Bangkok, September 2007

Eleventh Meeting of the Regional Interagency Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies, Bangkok, February 2008

Expert Group Meeting on the Provision of ICT Access for Disadvantaged Communities through Public-Private Partnership, Bangkok, December 2007

Fourth United Nations-Wide Meeting on the Use of Space Technologies for Emergency Response and Humanitarian Assistance, Bangkok, November 2007

Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, third session, Bali, Indonesia, November 2007

Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development, second session, Incheon, Republic of Korea, April 2007

ITU/ESCAP/APT Capacity-Building Workshop on Information Society Statistics: Infrastructure and Household Indicators, Bangkok, November 2007

National Seminar on Capacity-Building for ICT Policymaking, Baku, November 2007

National Seminar on Internet Governance: Capacity-Building in Public Policy Issues for Business Development in Asia and the Pacific, Ulaanbaatar, August 2007; Phnom Penh, August 2007

National Stakeholders Consultation Workshop on Empowering Rural Areas through Community e-Centres: Kathmandu, May 2007; Mayiladuthurai, India, December 2007

Regional Expert Meeting on Using Space Technology for Avian Influenza Monitoring and Early Warning in Asia, Bangkok, August 2007

Regional Training Workshop on Entrepreneurship and e-Business Development for Women Cooperatives, Bali, Indonesia, November 2007

Regional Workshop on Knowledge Sharing through Community-Based e-Learning Facilities in Rural Areas, Xining, China, June 2007

Subregional Workshop on Community e-Centres for Rural Development, New Delhi, April 2008

Towards a Regional Disaster Management Support System – Satellite Information Access Mechanism, Bangkok, March 2008

Workshop on Broadband and ICT Development for Improved Communications in Central Asia, Tashkent, June 2007

Subprogramme 8. Social development, including persistent and emerging issues

Art for All, Bangkok, July 2007

Consultative Workshop for Developing a Strategy for Social Health Protection in Cambodia, Phnom Penh, January 2008

Core Expert Meeting on the Review of Ongoing Health Financing Reform and Challenges in Expanding the Current Social Protection Schemes in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Vientiane, February 2008

ESCAP/Asia and Pacific Disability Forum Biwako Mid-point Review Seminar: Nothing about Us without Us, Bangkok, September 2007

ESCAP/Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability High-Level Stakeholders Workshop on Empowerment of People with Disabilities and a Barrier-Free Society through Networking and Collaboration, Bangkok, June 2007

ESCAP/Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology/Indonesian Institute of Sciences Regional Training Workshop on Entrepreneurship and e-Business Development for Women Cooperatives, Bali, Indonesia, November 2007

ESCAP/China Disabled Persons Federation Regional Workshop on the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities and Their Families in Asia and the Pacific, Shanghai, China, October 2007

ESCAP/ECPAT International/Save the Children, Fiji Regional Stakeholders Consultation and Planning Workshop on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Child Sexual Abuse in the Pacific, Suva, November 2007

Expert Group Meeting on Developing Supplementary Indicators on Social Inclusion, Population, Gender Equality and Health Promotion in the MDGs Process, Bangkok, November 2007

Expert Group Meeting on Enhancing Social Services Policies to Strengthen Family Well-Being in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, October 2007

Expert Group Meeting on Regional Trends in Health Services and Their Impact on Health Systems Performance in the Asian and Pacific Region, Bangkok, October 2007

Expert Group Meeting on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) for National Machineries and Senior Law-Making Officials on How to Effectively Integrate and Implement CEDAW at the National Level to Promote the Human Rights of Women, Bangkok, July 2007

Follow-up Meeting on Policy Advocacy for Enhancing Community Resilience to Natural Disasters Focusing on Children and Youth, Jakarta, July 2007

High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-point Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (2003-2012), Bangkok, September 2007

High-Level Meeting on the Regional Review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, Macao, China, October 2007

Mid-term Review Meeting on Strengthening Life Skills for Positive Youth Health Behaviour, Bangkok, November 2007

National Workshop on Gender Responsive Social Protection – Health Security for the Elderly, Hanoi, March 2008

Policy Dialogue on International Migration and Development in East and South-East Asia, Bangkok, November 2007

Regional Thematic Working Group on Migration, including Human Trafficking: Bangkok, July and December 2007

Seminar on the Social, Health and Economic Consequences of Population Ageing in the Context of Changing Families, Bangkok, July 2007

Training Workshop on Population, Development and Poverty in the Pacific, Suva, September 2007

Training Workshop on Relapse Prevention Planning, Vinh, Viet Nam, October 2007

Training Workshop on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Child Sexual Abuse Situational Analysis Research in Pacific Island Countries, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, October 2007

C. List of advisory services

Subprogramme 1. Poverty and development

Armenia: (a) to assist the Ministry of Finance and Economy in guiding participatory system monitoring of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP); (b) to follow up on the interface between the community and the Government using the voices of the poor methodology and to consolidate the results of the interface into an advocacy report to highlight poverty issues that need to be factored into economic governance.

Azerbaijan: (a) to review the current planning system for creating income and employment in Azerbaijan, to identify the possibility of linking the national and subnational programmes for income and employment generation, and to carry out a needs assessment of the possibility of setting up a system of community-based planning, monitoring and evaluation; (b) to devise and present a system of community-based planning at the local level for income and employment generation, and to act as a resource person for the national seminar on income and employment under the capacity-building project addressing these issues.

Georgia: to provide technical support for evaluating the Integrated Employment Generation and SME Development Programme run by the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme as well as suggesting ways and means to continue, modify and replicate the programme and/or take follow-up measures as necessary to maximize programme benefits.

India: (a) to assist the Government of India with the Nagapattinam project; (b) to assist the Government of India with the 11th Five Year Plan follow-up mission; (c) to follow up on arrangements for the 2007 Survey launch, to help the Executive Secretary launch the Survey, coordinate with government officials and accompany the Executive Secretary on official visits; (d) to provide advisory services to the State of Mizoram (India) on the development of an integrated sectoral development strategy.

Kazakhstan: (a) to review the current system of planning for creating income and employment in the country, to identify the linkages between the national and subnational programmes for income and employment generation, and to carry out a needs assessment for the possibility of setting up a system of community-based planning, monitoring and evaluation; (b) to devise and present a system of community-based planning at the local level for income and employment generation, and to act as a resource person for the national seminar on income and employment under the capacity-building project addressing these issues.

Pakistan: to provide advisory services to the Economic Affairs Division, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Statistics, to find ways and means to monitor a biodiversity park; to determine the pro-poor elements in the Morgah Biodiversity Park, established as a Pro-Poor Public-Private Partnership Project.

Timor-Leste: (a) to advise the Government of Timor-Leste, through the Ministry of Finance, on different programmatic issues; (b) to advise the Ministry of Finance on different programmatic issues, including monitoring and evaluation of rural development programmes.

Uzbekistan: to devise and present a system of community-based planning at the local level for income and employment generation, and to act as a resource person for the national seminar on income and employment under the capacity-building project addressing these issues.

Subprogramme 2. Statistics

India: (a) to act as a resource person in the seminar entitled "Towards Mainstreaming Time Use Surveys in the National Statistical System in India"; (b) to act as a resource person for the Interregional Training Workshop on the Production of Gender Statistics.

Kazakhstan: to collect information on and provide an initial assessment of the state of and plans for the development of the statistical system as requested by the Agency on Statistics.

Kyrgyzstan: to provide technical assistance in the improvement of informal sector employment and production to the National Statistical Committee and to participate in the UNECE Training Workshop on Non-observed Economy for SPECA member countries.

Malaysia: to act as a resource person for labour statistics issues, integrating frameworks for the development of an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) labour market information system and strategies for improving statistical data and methods for the ILO/ASEAN Technical Workshop on Labour Statistics: Setting Priorities for Enhanced Knowledge and Regional Cooperation.

Maldives: (a) to provide advisory services to the Ministry of Planning and National Development, to review the establishment surveys previously conducted by the Ministry and to provide advice in finalizing the questionnaires and survey plans for the Economic Survey 2007; (b) to provide technical assistance to the Statistics Division, Ministry of Planning and National Development on sample design and selection, listing and survey operations and conceptual issues for the survey.

Mongolia: (a) to provide technical assistance on improving the estimation of gross domestic product (GDP) through the improvement of data availability on the informal sector in the country; (b) to assist the Mongolia National Statistical Office in developing questionnaires and sampling designs for its labour force survey and enterprise surveys designed for collecting data on informal sector employment and GDP and informal employment; (c) to provide technical assistance in finalizing the sample design, questionnaire and survey operations of the phase 2 surveys and train National Statistical Office staff in the survey concepts and data items.

Myanmar: to carry out an advisory mission to the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development to discuss areas of technical assistance in statistics as proposed by the Government and thereby provide a basis for a medium-term results-based programme of technical advisory services in statistics.

Philippines: (a) to assist the Philippines National Statistics Office in the review and assessment of the sampling designs and estimation methodologies of business and industry censuses and surveys that are the basic sources of economic data and indicators in the country; (b) to advise the Philippines National Statistics office on the questionnaire, survey and sample designs for "1-2" survey implementation under the United Nations Development Account project on the measurement of the informal sector and informal employment.

Sri Lanka: (a) to assist the Department of Census and Statistics in establishing a well-coordinated master training programme for the country's statistical system; (b) to provide technical assistance in the design and implementation of a master training programme to prepare official statisticians in Sri Lanka.

Thailand: to act as a resource person at the In-Country Course in Industrial Statistics held in cooperation with the East Asia Expert Meeting on Industrial Statistics, a capacity-building project of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan.

Subprogramme 3. Development of Pacific island countries and territories

Fiji: to send a Regional Advisor to participate in the ILO Tripartite Technical Meeting on Decent Work: Pacific Island Countries, in Nadi.

Micronesia (Federated States of): (a) to participate in the UNDP Pacific Centre's follow-up subregional MDG-based workshop for North Pacific Countries in Pohnpei; (b) to assist the Government in developing the Strategic Development Plan and monitoring implementation performance.

Papua New Guinea: to build awareness of social and economic impacts of the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement and other trade agreements, to develop an impact assessment process through training in social impact methodology, and to identify national processes to mitigate potential impacts (see also subprogramme 8).

Solomon Islands: (a) to carry out the official launch of the Project Planning Guide and the three-day workshop on project preparation and appraisal; (b) to assess the feasibility of developing a provincial development plan for the government of Choiseul Province, the feasibility of assisting the Government of the Solomon Islands Prime Minister's office and also to assess the feasibility of assisting the Honiara City Council in collaboration with the Commonwealth Local Government Forum; (c) to participate (Regional Advisor) in the UNDP/ESCAP-funded follow-up subregional MDG-based workshop for Melanesian countries in Honiara and phase 3 of the Choiseul provincial development plan preparation (see also subprogramme 8).

Tonga: to assist the Government in preparing the Eua Strategic Development Plan, Phase II (see also subprogramme 8).

Vanuatu: to assist government officials in preparing fiscal, economic and policy reports.

Subprogramme 4. Trade and investment

Bhutan: to assist the Ministry of Trade and Industry to implement the Trade Development Office action plans for exporter development, marketing and promotion, and trade facilitation – specifically, to

sustain progress towards key milestones (e.g. website, export week, export awards, quality programme, branding initiative, dry port, etc.).

Germany: to represent the Trade and Investment Division at the second session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Trade.

Kyrgyzstan: (a) to assist the Government on export development for small and medium-sized enterprises; consultation mechanisms; networking and coalition building; policy development and implementation; identification, promotion and defence of negotiating interests; investment attraction; one-stop shop for investor assistance and World Trade Organization (WTO) legal framework; (b) to assist the Technical Regulation Department of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade to establish a new WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Enquiry Point and Technical Regulation Information Service to: meet WTO requirements, respond to the needs of the business community and develop efficient and effective coordination among various agencies for awareness building and compliance with multilateral, regional and bilateral technical standards commitments; (c) as invited by the Investment Council (under the President's Office), to conduct a four-step evaluation of the need for an investment facilitation service, including an analysis and consultations with all relevant parties to determine where and how the Investment Council could add value, mapping of procedures and regulations to identify obstacles and possible solutions, initial recommendations for simplification of procedures and rules and for a possible single-window-type mechanism, and an implementation action plan.

Lao People's Democratic Republic: to conduct an advisory mission as requested by the Government (Prime Minister's Office and Science, Technology and Environment Agency) to advise on export market development (including an e-commerce strategy) and WTO accession matters, to consult key stakeholders and analyse where ESCAP (Regional Advisor) could best add value, after evaluating assistance already being provided or in the pipeline, to follow up on specific issues for the Trade Policy Section (Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement), the Trade Efficiency and Facilitation Section (trade facilitation), and the Transport and Tourism Division (rail).

Mongolia: to assist the Ministry of Industry and Trade, as required, before and during the Global Event of Landlocked Developing Countries and Transit Countries on Trade and Trade Facilitation (the Ministry's first major international event); this event was a stepping stone on the way to the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2008.

Subprogramme 6. Environment and sustainable development

China: to attend the consultation meeting for the development of the International Centre for Drought Risk Reduction as requested by the National Disaster Reduction Centre of China, and the Ministry of Civil Affairs, so as to contribute to the further development of the Centre.

Indonesia: (a) to act as a resource person in a climate change negotiations training seminar for the Department of Foreign Affairs; (b) to advise the Ministry of Environment in connection with the climate change negotiation training course and to act as a resource person to cover the scientific and technical issues relating to climate change.

Kiribati: to provide training for the officers of the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development on issues relating to environmental management and sustainable development.

Lao People's Democratic Republic: to provide advisory services to the Water Resources and Environment Administration and to prepare the Lao delegation for the thirteenth session of the Co[illegible] of the Parties to the United Nations Framew[illegible]nvention on Climate Change serving as the third meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

Myanmar: (a) to assist in planning and organizing a three-day project initiation workshop, to be held later; (b) to advise on the establishment of a national project team to implement the Initial National Communication based on the project document; (c) to provide hands-on training in Global Environment Facility (GEF) project development; (d) to draft a project proposal for the National Adaptation Programme of Action with GEF funding of $200,000.

Pakistan: to advise the Ministry of Environment on GEF and clean development mechanism (CDM) projects, and to provide hands-on training on GEF and CDM project development.

Papua New Guinea: to serve as a resource person in a forum, organized by the Ministry of Health, on Papua New Guinea's prospects for sustainable development.

Thailand: to participate in and contribute to the Workshop on Vulnerability, Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Risks: An Assessment of Education and Training Capacities and Needs in Southeast Asia, jointly organized by the System for Analysis, Research and Training secretariat and the Unit for Social and Environment Research of Chiang Mai University to evaluate individual countries and develop a regional strategy for strengthening this capacity.

Tuvalu: to assist the Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Environment in providing hands-on training on GEF project development and formulation, as well as to assist in developing a project proposal on sustainable land management.

Uzbekistan: to provide assistance and consultation services to the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan for preparing project proposals for funding from the GEF and the CDM of the Kyoto Protocol, to provide consultation on issues relating to industrial energy

efficiency standards, cleaner production and the concept of eco-efficiency, to review the progress of the Second National Communication project on climate change.

Subprogramme 7. Information, communication and space technology

Bhutan: (a) to review the current status of e-commerce and e-business development in Bhutan and advise on an optimal strategic course of actions the government may employ for accelerated development in this area, to conduct a workshop to enhance the conceptual and technological awareness of e-commerce among the officials in the Department of Trade, other government institutions and stakeholder organizations in Bhutan; (b) to help the Department of Trade prepare a strategic plan of action for e-business development in the country.

China: to participate as a resource person in the Regional Workshop on Knowledge Sharing through Community Based e-Learning Facilities in Rural Areas.

Georgia: to provide advisory and technical assistance on urgent matters, such as the assessment and fine-tuning of ICT policies and strategies, the ongoing ICT programme, information security and other possible areas as determined on the basis of an on-the-spot assessment by the Regional Advisor and discussions with the officials concerned.

Lao People's Democratic Republic: (a) to develop e-business policies and a regulatory framework and infrastructure, to assist and enhance Science Technology and Environment Agency (STEA) institutional reforms; (b) to provide a technical assistance programme to STEA, focusing on the development of two national development projects, one for e-business and the other for the national ICT master plan, to provide advisory and technical inputs for the ongoing e-government programme as well as the software park project, now being contemplated by STEA; (c) to provide advisory services to the STEA Department of Science and Technology on the ongoing e-government programme as well as to carry forward the two previous missions on the e-business and ICT master plan projects; (d) to provide advisory services to the Department of Science and Technology on the ongoing e-government programme and regulatory framework.

Republic of Korea: to provide services to the Regional Forum on ICT Capacity Building being organized by the Ministry of Information and Communication in collaboration with the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development at Incheon.

Timor-Leste: to assess the current situation in the country with regard to ICT policies, strategies, programmes and infrastructure, to review, in consultation with the government officials concerned, existing ICT plans and programmes and provide advice to the Ministry of Transport and Communication on ICT matters.

Subprogramme 8. Social development, including persistent and emerging issues

Australia: to define a programme of activities to support urban management initiatives in the Pacific to take forward priorities agreed at the April 2007 Pacific Regional Workshop on Urban Management held in Fiji, organized by the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, ESCAP and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

Cook Islands: to undertake and complete a stocktaking of the current situation relating to people with disabilities, consolidate and analyse data on the national situation relating to people with disabilities and make practical recommendations for a revised policy for the next five years (2008-2012).

Fiji: (a) to participate in the Expert Group Meeting on Disability in the Pacific: Strengthening Implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework, in Nadi; (b) to assist with the management and facilitation of the Second Pacific Regional Workshop on Urban Management in collaboration with the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum; (c) to brief the annual meeting of the Fiji Local Government Association on recent developments regarding the implementation of the Pacific Urban Agenda.

Kiribati: to advise and act as a resource person for the Government of Kiribati in connection with the first national workshop on developing a national disability policy.

New Caledonia: to participate in a Secretariat of the Pacific Community stakeholder consultation on the development of the new Human Development Programme (HDP); to review the programme's priorities and consider social development gaps in the programme across the subregion; to learn of new Pacific developments in the social development sector from subregional agencies and from governments.

Papua New Guinea: to build awareness of social and economic impacts of the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement and other trade agreements, to develop an impact assessment process through training in social impact methodology and to identify national processes to mitigate potential impacts (see also subprogramme 3).

Solomon Islands: (a) to assess the feasibility of developing a provincial development plan for the government of Choiseul Province, the feasibility of assisting the government of the Solomon Islands Prime Minister's office and also the feasibility of assisting the Honiara City Council in collaboration with the Commonwealth Local Government Forum; (b) to plan and pilot the community consultation

process and presentations; to provide a briefing for the consultant to the process; and to seek agreement from the provincial government for the consultation process (see also subprogramme 3).

Tonga: to assist the Government of Tonga to prepare the Eua Strategic Development Plan, Phase II (see also subprogramme 3).

Annex V

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its fourth session, amended by the Council at subsequent sessions, and revised in consequence of various General Assembly resolutions.

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered General Assembly resolution 46(I) of 11 December 1946, in which the General Assembly "recommends that, in order to give effective aid to the countries devastated by war, the Economic and Social Council, at its next session, give prompt and favourable consideration to the establishment of ... an Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East",

Having noted the report of the Working Group for Asia and the Far East of the Temporary Sub-Commission on Economic Reconstruction of Devastated Areas,

Establishes an Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific with terms of reference as follows:

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Asia and the Pacific, for raising the level of economic activity in Asia and the Pacific and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of these areas both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within territories of Asia and the Pacific as the Commission deems appropriate;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

(d) Perform such advisory services, within the available resources of its secretariat, as the countries of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by the specialized agencies or the relevant United Nations bodies;

(e) Assist the Economic and Social Council, at its request, in discharging its functions within the region in connection with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;

(f) In carrying out the above functions, deal, as appropriate, with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

2. The territories of Asia and the Pacific referred to in paragraph 1 shall include Afghanistan; American Samoa; Armenia; Australia; Azerbaijan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Brunei Darussalam; Cambodia; China; Cook Islands; Fiji; French Polynesia; Georgia; Guam; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Japan; Kazakhstan; Kiribati; Korea; Kyrgyzstan; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Macao, China; Malaysia; Maldives; Marshall Islands; Micronesia (Federated States of); Mongolia; Myanmar; Nauru; Nepal; New Caledonia; New Zealand; Niue; Northern Mariana Islands; Pakistan; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Russian Federation; Samoa; Singapore; Solomon Islands; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Tonga; Turkey; Turkmenistan; Tuvalu; Uzbekistan; Vanuatu; and Viet Nam.

3. The members of the Commission shall consist of Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam, provided that any State in the area which may hereafter become a Member of the United Nations shall be thereupon admitted as a member of the Commission.

4. The associate members shall include American Samoa; Cook Islands; French Polynesia; Guam; Hong Kong, China; Macao, China; New Caledonia; Niue; and Northern Mariana Islands.

5. Any territory, part or group of territories within the geographical scope of the Commission as defined in paragraph 2 may, on presentation of its application to the Commission by the member responsible for the international relations of such territory, part or group of territories, be admitted by the Commission as an associate member of the Commission. If it has become responsible for its own international relations, such territory, part or group of territories may be admitted as an associate member of the Commission on itself presenting its application to the Commission.

6. Representatives of associate members shall be entitled to participate without vote in all meetings of the Commission, whether sitting as Commission or as Committee of the Whole.

7. Representatives of associate members shall be eligible to be appointed as members of any committee, or other subordinate body, which may be set up by the Commission and shall be eligible to vote and hold office in such body.

8. The Commission is empowered to make recommendations on any matters within its competence directly to the Governments of members or associate members concerned, Governments admitted in consultative capacity, and the specialized agencies concerned. The Commission shall submit for the Council's prior consideration any of its proposals of activities that would have important effects on the economy of the world as a whole.

9. The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that non-member.

10. The Commission shall invite representatives of specialized agencies and may invite representatives of any intergovernmental organization to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that agency or organization, following the practice of the Economic and Social Council.

11. The Commission shall make arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the principles approved by the Council for this purpose and contained in Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

12. The Commission shall take measures to ensure that the necessary liaison is maintained with other organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies. The Commission shall establish appropriate liaison and cooperation with other regional commissions in accordance with the resolutions and directives of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

13. The Commission may, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

14. The Commission shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its Chairperson.

15. The Commission shall submit to the Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, once a year.

16. The administrative budget of the Commission shall be financed from the funds of the United Nations.

17. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint the staff of the Commission, which shall form part of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

18. The headquarters of the Commission shall be located at Bangkok, Thailand.

19. The Council shall, from time to time, make special reviews of the work of the Commission.

Annex VI

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As drawn up at the first session, confirmed and adopted at the second session, and amended at subsequent sessions of the Commission.

Chapter I

SESSIONS

Rule 1

The following principles shall apply as regards date and place for the sessions of the Commission:

(a) The Commission shall at each session recommend the date and place for its next session, subject to the approval of the Council and in consultation with the Secretary-General. Sessions of the Commission shall also be held within forty-five days of the communication to the Executive Secretary of a request to that effect by the Economic and Social Council, and, in that case, the Secretary-General shall establish the place of such sessions in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission;

(b) In special cases the date and place of the session may be altered by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences. At the request of the majority of the members of the Commission, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences, may also alter the date and place of the session;

(c) Sessions shall ordinarily be held at the office of the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific. The Commission may recommend holding a particular session elsewhere.

Rule 2

The Executive Secretary shall, at least forty-two days before the commencement of a session, distribute a notice of the opening date of the session, together with three copies of the provisional agenda and of the basic documents relating to each item appearing on the provisional agenda. Distribution shall be similar to that under rule 49.

Rule 3

The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that Member.

Chapter II

AGENDA

Rule 4

The provisional agenda for each session shall be drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman.

Rule 5

The provisional agenda for any session shall include:

(a) Items arising from previous sessions of the Commission;

(b) Items proposed by the Economic and Social Council;

(c) Items proposed by any member or associate member of the Commission;

(d) Items proposed by a specialized agency in accordance with the agreements of relationship concluded between the United Nations and such agencies;

(e) Items proposed by non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, subject to the provisions of rule 6;

(f) Any other items which the Chairman or the Executive Secretary sees fit to include.

Rule 6

Non-governmental organizations in general consultative status may propose items on matters within their competence for the provisional agenda of the Commission, subject to the following conditions:

(a) An organization which intends to propose such an item shall inform the Executive Secretary at least sixty-three days before the commencement of the session, and before formally proposing an item shall give due consideration to any comments he may make;

(b) The proposal shall be formally submitted with the relevant basic documentation not less than forty-nine days before the commencement of the session. The item shall be included in the agenda of the Commission if it is adopted by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

Rule 7

The first item upon the provisional agenda for each session shall be the adoption of the agenda.

Rule 8

The Commission may amend the agenda at any time.

Chapter III

REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Rule 9

Each member shall be represented on the Commission by an accredited representative.

Rule 10

A representative may be accompanied to the sessions of the Commission by alternate representatives and advisers and, when absent, he may be replaced by an alternate representative.

Rule 11

The credentials of each representative appointed to the Commission, together with a designation of alternate representatives, shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary without delay.

Rule 12

The Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen shall examine the credentials and report upon them to the Commission.

Chapter IV

OFFICERS

Rule 13

The Commission shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect from among its representatives a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen, designated as First and Second Vice-Chairmen, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election.

Rule 14

If the Chairman is absent from a meeting, or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairman designated by the Chairman shall preside.

Rule 15

If the Chairman ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the First Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term. If the First Vice-Chairman also ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the Second Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term.

Rule 16

The Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman.

Rule 17

The Chairman, or the Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman, shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such, and not as the representative of the member by whom he was accredited. The Commission shall admit an alternate representative to represent that member in the meetings of the Commission and to exercise its right to vote.

Chapter V

SECRETARIAT

Rule 18

The Executive Secretary shall act in that capacity at all meetings of the Commission and of its subcommissions, other subsidiary bodies and committees. He may appoint another member of the staff to take his place at any meeting.

Rule 19

The Executive Secretary or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 20

The Executive Secretary shall direct the staff provided by the Secretary-General and required by the Commission, its subcommissions, and any other subsidiary bodies and committees.

Rule 21

The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the necessary arrangements being made for meetings.

Rule 22

The Executive Secretary in carrying out his functions shall act on behalf of the Secretary-General.

Rule 23

Before new proposals which involve expenditure from United Nations funds are approved by the

Commission, the Executive Secretary shall prepare and circulate to members an estimate of that part of the cost involved in the proposals which could not be met out of the resources available to the secretariat. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to draw the attention of members to this estimate, and invite discussion on it before the proposals are approved.

Chapter VI

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 24

A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 25

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Commission, shall direct the discussion, ensure the observance of these rules, and shall accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote, and announce decisions. The Chairman may also call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Rule 26

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may raise a point of order. In this case, the Chairman shall immediately state his ruling. If it is challenged, the Chairman shall forthwith submit his ruling to the Commission for decision, and it shall stand unless overruled.

Rule 27

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate. Any such motion shall have priority. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative shall be allowed to speak in favour of, and one representative against, the motion.

Rule 28

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Not more than two representatives may be granted permission to speak against the closure.

Rule 29

The Chairman shall take the sense of the Commission on a motion for closure. If the Commission is in favour of the closure, the Chairman shall declare the debate closed.

Rule 30

The Commission may limit the time allowed to each speaker.

Rule 31

Draft resolutions, and substantial amendments or motions, shall be introduced in writing and handed to the Executive Secretary, who shall circulate copies to the representatives at least twenty-four hours before they are discussed and voted upon, unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 32

Upon the request of any member, any motion and amendment thereto made by any speaker shall be given to the Chairman in writing and shall be read by him before any further speaker is called upon and also immediately before a vote is taken on such motion or amendment. The Chairman may direct that any motion or amendment be circulated to the members present before a vote is taken.

This rule shall not apply to formal motions such as one for closure or adjournment.

Rule 33

Principal motions and resolutions shall be put to the vote in the order of their submission unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 34

When an amendment revises, adds to or deletes from a proposal, the amendment shall be put to the vote first, and, if it is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be put to the vote.

Rule 35

If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Commission shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal; then, if necessary, on the amendment next furthest removed; and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote.

Rule 36

The Commission may, at the request of a representative, decide to put a motion or resolution to the vote in parts. If this is done, the text resulting from the series of votes shall be put to the vote as a whole.

Chapter VII

VOTING

Rule 37

Each member of the Commission shall have one vote.

Rule 38

Except for the provision of rule 6*(b)*, decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 39

The Commission shall take no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country.

Rule 40

The Commission shall normally vote by a show of hands. If any representative requests a roll-call, a roll-call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members.

Rule 41

All elections shall be decided by secret ballot.

Rule 42

If a vote is equally divided upon matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken at the next meeting. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

Rule 43

After the voting has commenced, no representative shall interrupt voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. Brief statements by members consisting solely of explanations of their votes may be permitted by the Chairman, if he deems it necessary, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed.

Chapter VIII

LANGUAGES

Rule 44

Chinese, English, French and Russian shall be the working languages of the Commission.

Rule 45

Speeches made in one of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working languages.

Chapter IX

RECORDS

Rule 46

Summary records of the meetings of the Commission shall be kept by the secretariat. They shall be sent as soon as possible to the representatives of members and to the representatives of any other government agency or organization which participated in the meeting concerned. Such representatives shall inform the secretariat, not later than seventy-two hours after the circulation of any summary record, of any changes they wish to have made. Any disagreement concerning such changes shall be referred to the Chairman, whose decision shall be final.

Rule 47

The corrected version of the summary records of public meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible in accordance with the usual practice of the United Nations. This shall include distribution to non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status and those on the Roster, and on appropriate occasions to consultative members.

Rule 48

The corrected version of the summary records of private meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible to the members of the Commission, to any consultative member participating in the meeting concerned, and to the specialized agencies. They shall be distributed to all the Members of the United Nations if and when the Commission so decides.

Rule 49

As soon as possible, the text of all reports, resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions made by the Commission, its subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies and its committees shall be communicated to the members of the Commission, to the consultative members concerned, to all other Members of the United Nations, to the specialized agencies, and to the non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status and those on the Roster.

Chapter X

PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS

Rule 50

The meetings of the Commission shall ordinarily be held in public. The Commission may decide that a particular meeting or meetings shall be held in private.

Chapter XI

CONSULTATIONS WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Rule 51

1. Where an item proposed for the provisional agenda for a session contains a proposal for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relating to matters which are of direct concern to one or more specialized

agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall enter into consultation with the agency or agencies concerned and report to the Commission on the means of achieving coordinated use of the resources of the respective agencies.

2. Where a proposal put forward in the course of a meeting for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relates to matters which are of direct concern to one or more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall, after such consultation as may be possible with the representatives at the meeting of the other agency or agencies concerned, draw the attention of the meeting to these implications of the proposal.

3. Before deciding on proposals referred to above, the Commission shall satisfy itself that adequate consultations have taken place with the agencies concerned.

Chapter XII

RELATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rule 52

Non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Commission. Organizations on the Roster may have representatives present at such meetings which are concerned with matters within their field of competence.

Rule 53

Written statements relevant to the work of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies may be submitted by organizations in general and special consultative status on subjects for which these organizations have a special competence. Such statements shall be circulated by the Executive Secretary to the members and associate members of the Commission except those statements which have become obsolete - e.g. those dealing with matters already disposed of, and those which have already been circulated in some other form to members and associate members of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 54

The following conditions shall be observed regarding the submission and circulation of such written statements:

(a) The written statement shall be submitted in one of the official languages;

(b) It shall be submitted in sufficient time for appropriate consultation to take place between the Executive Secretary and the organization before circulation;

(c) The organization shall give due consideration to any comments which the Executive Secretary may make in the course of such consultation before transmitting the statement in final form;

(d) A written statement submitted by an organization in general consultative status will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 2,000 words. Where a statement is in excess of 2,000 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or of one of its subsidiary bodies;

(e) A written statement submitted by an organization in special consultative status will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 1,500 words. Where a statement is in excess of 1,500 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or other subsidiary bodies;

(f) The Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman or the Commission itself may invite organizations on the Roster to submit written statements. The provisions of paragraphs *(a)*, *(b)*, *(c)* and *(e)* above shall apply to such statements;

(g) A written statement or summary, as the case may be, will be circulated by the Executive Secretary in the working languages and, upon the request of a member or associate member of the Commission, in any of the official languages.

Rule 55

(a) The Commission and its subsidiary bodies may consult with organizations in general or special consultative status either directly or through a committee or committees established for the purpose. In all cases, such consultations may be arranged on the request of the organization;

(b) On the recommendation of the Executive Secretary and at the request of the Commission or one of its subsidiary bodies, organizations on the Roster may also be heard by the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 56

Subject to rule 23 the Commission may recommend that a non-governmental organization which has special competence in a particular field should undertake specific studies or investigations or prepare specific papers for the Commission. The limitations of rule 54*(d)* and *(e)* shall not apply in this case.

Chapter XIII

SUBCOMMISSIONS, OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND COMMITTEES

Rule 57

After discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same field, and with the approval of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission may establish such continually acting subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions and shall define the powers and composition of each of them. Such autonomy as may be necessary for the effective discharge of the technical responsibilities laid upon them may be delegated to them.

Rule 58

The Commission may establish such committees and subcommittees as it deems necessary to assist it in carrying out its tasks.

Rule 59

Subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies and committees, subcommittees and working parties shall adopt their own rules of procedure unless otherwise decided by the Commission.

Chapter XIV

REPORTS

Rule 60

The Commission shall, once a year, submit to the Economic and Social Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies.

Chapter XV

AMENDMENTS AND SUSPENSIONS

Rule 61

Any of these rules of procedure may be amended or suspended by the Commission, provided that the proposed amendments or suspensions do not attempt to set aside the terms of reference laid down by the Economic and Social Council.

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